

Hanratty inquiry did not interview key witnesses



Hanratty: last man to be hanged in Britain

By ROBIN YOUNG

A SCOTLAND Yard inquiry concluded that James Hanratty, the last man to be hanged in Britain, was wrongly convicted, even though two important witnesses in the case were not interviewed.

Hanratty was executed in 1962 at the age of 25 for what became known as the A6 murder at Deadman's Hill in Bedfordshire, but doubts about his conviction played a significant part in MPs' voting to abolish capital punishment in 1965.

The Home Office yesterday confirmed that it was in contact with Hanratty's family's lawyers about the

report, and that any application they might make for the case to be reopened would be given consideration.

The report, prepared by Detective Superintendent Roger Mathews, one of the Yard's most experienced investigators, took 18 months to complete and was presented two months ago but has still not been seen by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary. It remains with C3, the Home Office department set up to deal with miscarriages of justice.

The report, based on a re-examination of the piles of evidence in the case, concludes that whoever killed Michael

Gregsten also revealed that she had had an affair with her brother-in-law, William Ewer, an antiques dealer now living in retirement in Golders Green, northwest London. Neither Mr Alphon nor Mr Ewer was interviewed in connection with the inquiry.

partially paralysed and confined to a wheelchair, was hired to break up their relationship.

The prosecution case against Hanratty took no account of the possibility that others were involved in the murder beside the neatly dressed gunman with "staring eyes" who waylaid the couple in their Morris Minor at their habitual meeting place, a cornfield near Maidenhead, Berkshire, forced them to drive 60 miles to a lay-by on the A6, and then shot them.

Janet Gregsten, who knew about her husband's love affair with Miss Storie, died in January last year, immediately after giving an interview to Paul Foot, author of *Who killed Hanratty?*, a

book arguing Hanratty's innocence which suggested that she and her family might have hired someone to separate Mr Gregsten from his mistress. In the interview Mrs Gregsten for the first time said she was no longer convinced of Hanratty's guilt and thought that the police's original suspect in the case, a door-to-door salesman called Peter Alphon, was more likely to have been involved.

Mrs Gregsten also revealed that she had had an affair with her brother-in-law, William Ewer, an antiques dealer now living in retirement in Golders Green, northwest London. Neither Mr Alphon nor Mr Ewer was interviewed in connection with the inquiry.

New low pay body will be permanent commission

By PHILIP BASSETT AND ANDREW PIERCE

LABOUR's proposed Low Pay Commission, on which business leaders will sit to help to set a national minimum wage, will be established as a permanent body to oversee its enforcement.

Tony Blair is resisting calls to make the commission a more wide-ranging body dealing with employment issues other than a minimum wage but he is determined to make the commission a central part of the annual economic cycle under a Labour government.

Mr Blair, who is under pressure from trade union leaders to set a £4.26 hourly rate as part of a General Election manifesto commitment, is also coming under pressure from some Labour MPs to fix a 50 pence high rate of income tax.

Several Shadow Cabinet ministers are pressing the case but the Labour leadership insisted last night that there was no chance of changing the party's tough line on taxation. Only last week the party leadership decided against a cut-off point for receipt of Labour's proposed replacement for child benefit at £100,000.

A Labour source said last night: "Some people in the party would like a higher rate of taxation but it has been made abundantly clear it is not going to happen. None of our spending plans involve any increases in taxation."

Mr Blair is studying detailed proposals on the size and operation of a Low Pay Commission (LPC) which will make a recommendation on one of the most sensitive policy

areas facing a new Labour government. The Commission will start work within days of Labour winning the election.

The remit of the Commission will be wider than originally envisaged. Proposals under consideration include recommending a training rate allowance for people aged 16-18 who will not be covered by the minimum wage. The Commission would also conduct periodic reviews of the minimum wage to ensure that it is regarded as a long-term feature of the jobs market under a Labour government.

It would be empowered to consider matters referred to it by ministers and have the responsibility to oversee and monitor enforcement mechanisms for a national minimum wage. The Commission would make formal reports to Parliament on its work which would also include publicising the minimum wage. It will also cover homeworkers and family members working for family firms.

Membership would be drawn from employers' and employees' organisations such as the Confederation of British Industry. Work would begin soon after the election of a Labour government. The commission would have statutory standing.

□ Harriet Harman, the Shadow Social Security Secretary, will today write to the leaders of Britain's trade unions to seek their support against a Barbara Castle's motion at the Labour Party conference to restore the link between average earnings and the state pension.



Peter de Savary has announced he will fight Sebastian Coe for the Falmouth and Camborne seat

Goldsmith wins year-long fight for party political broadcast

By ANDREW PIERCE
POLITICAL
CORRESPONDENT

SIR James Goldsmith has won a year-long fight against the three main political parties over the right of the Referendum Party to give a party political broadcast during the general election campaign.

The financier, buoyed by his victory, has appointed an advertising agency to mastermind a campaign right up to the election. Banks, Hoggins and O'Shea, which which dreamt up the "Tell Sid" campaign for the sale of British Gas, will begin work this week on ideas for a five-minute party political broad-

cast, a nationwide poster campaign and a leaflet drive.

The Tories, who fear the Referendum Party could cost them up to 20 seats, will be dismayed that Sir James has won the right to such prime time television and radio exposure.

But the Committee on Party Political Broadcasting, after taking legal advice, dropped plans to introduce a requirement for "proven electoral support" before any party could have a political broadcast.

The authorities have agreed to abide by the rules of the last election which will enable any party which fields more than 50 candidates to have at least

one broadcast. Sir James has instructed the agency to produce a slick campaign. He has pledged to spend £20 million "or whatever it takes" to match the millions the Tories are spending on the "New Labour, new danger" campaign.

The Referendum Party had mounted a legal challenge to the Committee on Party Political Broadcasting, whose members include the Chief Whips of the three main parties and officials from the BBC and ITN.

The breakthrough on the broadcast was timely. Last week the Referendum Party was embarrassed by the leak of an internal memorandum

which suggested that its candidates were "too old and too few" to fight a proper election campaign.

At the weekend the party announced it had captured another high profile candidate. Peter de Savary, the businessman and former America's Cup challenger, will fight Sebastian Coe, the double Olympic gold medallist, in Falmouth and Camborne. Mr de Savary, 53, who owns a shipyard in Cornwall, and has strong local links with the area, will be fighting to overturn Mr Coe's 3,000 majority.

Conservative Central Office will be dismayed by the triumph for Sir James.

Tories want curbs on the power of Court of Justice

By A STAFF REPORTER

LEADING Tories are demanding action to restrict the powers of the "remote, meddlesome and biased" European Court of Justice which, they claim, is acting more like a parliament in its headlong pursuit of Euro-integration.

At the same time, Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, pledged that Britain would propose measures to ensure that the court did not stray beyond its role amid concern that it was adopting its own political agenda.

Mr Howard expressed the

Government's own concern that the court was making judgments beyond its remit – particularly the ruling that Britain must compensate Spanish fishermen prevented from fishing Britain's quota – in a new document published by the European Research Group. The group comprises Conservative MPs and other politicians and lawyers from across the EU.

Mr Howard, who warned that trying to follow the federal route in Europe would result in "political earthquake", said that the European Court of Justice existed to ensure that member states played by the rules.

"We need to ensure the Court operates within the remit given to it by the member states. There is growing concern that the Court is increasing its competence and adopting its own political agenda."

Sir Michael Spicer, chairman of the group, said: "The Court is acting less like a court than a parliament, making new laws in its headlong pursuit of European integration. A number of recent judgments have made this Court seem remote."

Single currency

Continued from page 1
Prime Minister has always maintained."

Opposition parties meanwhile sought to capitalise on the row. Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, said:

"The Tories are at war again. They are irrevocably split. This is damaging Britain's interests in Europe." And Alan Beith of the Liberal Democrats said Mr Clarke was being forced into a corner by those whose policies "can only lead to Britain backing out of Europe altogether".

Paddy Ashdown, however, accused both Tories and Labour of a "conspiracy of deceit", saying a decision on a single currency would have to be made a few weeks after the

general election, but neither party was willing to campaign on the issue because both feared internal splits.

In his radio interview, Mr Clarke said that the finance ministers meeting in Dublin had believed that they were in the last two, three or four years of producing economic and monetary union in the centre of Europe.

He would not be in favour of joining if it was not being done properly, but Britain's future was immersed with other EU states since the economy performed better when the German, French and Italian economies were booming. "If you go ahead and form a Euro-zone, it matters an awful lot to us."

Government braces for new human rights ruling

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government is preparing for the prospect of a fresh adverse ruling in the European Court of Human Rights this week over its treatment of gypsies.

The Strasbourg court is to give its decision in a test case over Britain's planning laws which the European Commission on Human Rights has already ruled are a violation of the gypsies' right to enjoy their traditional way of life. Some 50 cases are in the pipeline awaiting the outcome

of the Strasbourg challenge, the first gypsy case ever to go to the European Court.

It has been brought by June Buckley, a single mother of three, over her attempt to obtain permission to live in a caravan on land she owns on the outskirts of Willingham, Cambridgeshire. If she wins, the case would have wide ramifications for the 350,000-strong gypsy population which has in recent years faced increasingly restrictive laws on where they can reside.

Mrs Buckley's attempt to gain planning permission for her family to live in three caravans on the site she has owned since 1988 was turned down by South Cambridgeshire District Council in 1991. Before that she had no fixed abode.

She was prosecuted and fined for living there but since the lodging of the court case, the council has taken no further action. In February 1992 she took her case to the European Commission on Human Rights – the first hurdle in bringing a challenge – and this found in her favour by seven to five, ruling that the council had violated her right to a family life.

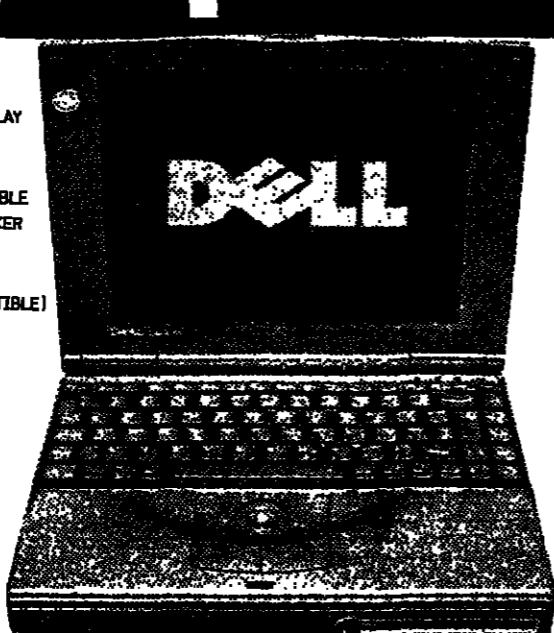
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مكتبة من الأصل

Drinking alcohol ‘is widespread by the age of ten’

By JOHN O’LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

CHILDREN as young as ten are becoming regular drinkers of alcohol, often with their parents’ consent, one of the biggest and most established studies of children’s health shows today.

A quarter of boys and one girl in seven aged between 10 and 11 told researchers they had drunk some alcohol in the week of the survey by the Schools Health Education Unit at Exeter University. By the age of 14, the majority of both sexes were drinkers.

John Balding, the unit’s director, said that the growing use of alcohol was among the most serious threats to young people’s health, far outweighing the use of drugs. He said drinks such as alcoholic lemonade were making the position worse.

The survey, which has been carried out for 20 years and now involves almost 24,000 pupils, previously covered only secondary school pupils in its published form. But Mr Balding said high levels of drinking in the early teens had

suggested an even younger introduction to alcohol.

Most of the ten-year-olds who admitted drinking in the week of the test said they had done so on only one day, but a small proportion were indulging daily. More than a third of 12- and 13-year-olds were drinking, with the figure reaching 60 per cent two years later.

The home was the most common source of alcohol and the majority of teenagers said their parents knew that they were drinking there. Others were drinking at friends’ homes, parties or discos, but few cited pubs. Mr Balding said: “It is difficult to say whether the use of alcohol by youngsters is rising by much, but it certainly is not falling.”

The survey was carried out last year before alcoholic lemonade drinks were widely available. Beer or lager was the favourite choice of teenage boys, with girls preferring wine or cider. The older age groups in particular said they usually drank to get drunk.

rather than for social reasons or because of peer pressure.

Few of the younger age groups had any experience of illegal drugs, although by the age of 14 or 15 almost a third of boys and a quarter of girls had experimented. Cannabis was by far the most common drug used.

Mr Balding said the survey generally gave a positive picture of young people’s health-related behaviour. Hygiene, for example, had improved considerably over the years.

“My view of young people is very optimistic: they care passionately about their environment, about each other and, believe it or not, about what adults think of them,” he said. “They are also prepared to take risks, which is a sign of health.”

However, half of those surveyed had spent at least two hours watching television the previous evening, and more than a third had done no homework. One girl in five considered herself unfit by the age of 14.



One of the Cheltenham foxes adding to the family collection of bowling jacks

ADRIAN SHERRATT

Champion bowler caught out by ball tampering

By DAVID RHYNS JONES

A FOX trots across the bowling green, sniffs the jack — and makes off with it. And it’s not the first time. Four of the small yellow balls used as markers have been appropriated at the Suffolk Square club in Cheltenham.

Visitors who turned up to watch the club’s leading player, Tony Allcock, the world outdoor singles champion, were surprised to see the great man sharing the limelight with the foxes. One stopped Mr Allcock in mid-bowl during the Gloucestershire triples final.

“We were in the middle of our game on rink four when a fox darted onto the green, picked up the jack on rink six and made off with it,” Mr Allcock said yesterday. “I believe they live across the square, in the foundations of one of the Georgian houses, and are regular visitors.”

Tom Barker, 14, the club’s youngest member, who was practising on the end rink during the county final, said: “I put up a jack and bowled two woods at it, then stopped for a moment to watch what was happening in the final. When I turned back, there was a fox on the rink and it picked up the jack and ambled off, cool as a cucumber.” Chasing down the rink after the fox in an unsuccessful attempt to retrieve the jack, Tom was reprimanded by the club captain for running on the green.

“On a previous occasion I saw a fox on the green and rolled a jack at it, hoping to frighten it away,” Tom said. “Instead of being scared, the fox obviously thought it was a game, picked the jack up in its mouth and ran away with it.”

The foxes can be seen regularly at the club, especially early in the morning and at dusk, but they have been known to turn up in the afternoons, when they sit on the bank and watch the games.

Bob Mackie, the club president, said the foxes seemed to enjoy watching the woods roll up the green. “Their heads turn as they travel towards the jack and I’ll swear that, if it’s a poor delivery, they will turn back and give the bowler a look of disapproval. They are extremely tame.”

He said the animals had divided the club. “Half our members think they are cute, but the other half would like to get rid of them, and have come up with all sorts of ideas, most of them illegal.”

Claudio Sillero, of the Wildlife Conservation Research Unit at Oxford, said: “Foxes are attracted to things they can roll and play with. They have probably built up a cache of jacks in their den.”

NEWS IN BRIEF

Scientists examine hate mail

Threatening letters seized by police are being examined by researchers hoping to discover if the language used in the letters will show whether the threat will be carried out. Scientists have already examined 100 letters passed on by police from cases involving vicious personal threats, extortion or terrorist threats. The letters are being compared against simulated letters written by volunteers.

The work, which can also tell police about the writer’s personality, is being done by researchers linked to the department of psychology at Liverpool University.

Car blaze death

Police officers could only watch helplessly as a man burnt to death after his car was engulfed by fire outside St Helens police station on Merseyside early yesterday. The 37-year-old had been reported missing by his parents the previous day.

Number culled

The owner of an abattoir in Stockton-on-Tees, Co Durham, has removed the number plate P6 BSE from his new £50,000 Mercedes after protests from farmers. Michael Broad said that it was a family joke which had backfired.

Student stress up

Psychological disturbance among students has increased in 64 per cent of universities, according to the Association for Student Counselling. Student suicides are also said to be rising. A stress survival guide has been launched for first-year students.

Snorkeller dies

A Briton died after getting into difficulties while snorkelling off a Malaysian island. Richard Caudwell, 53, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, who was married with three children, was swimming off Toman Island while on a two-month holiday.

Circus stampede

A man was injured as 50 people fled from a circus in Greater Manchester, fearing that an elephant was about to trample them. The panic was halted by the ringmaster who pleaded with the audience to return. The circus manager said there was no real danger.

Two go into one

Golfing partners Steve Read, 37, and Tony Goodridge, 49, thought they had both lost their balls after teeing off at the par-three, 160-yard twelfth hole during a contest at Milford Haven Golf Club, west Wales, to find both balls nestling in the cup.

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مكتبة من الأصل

Health managers ban general surgeons from breast operations

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

A HEALTH authority has banned surgeons who fail to follow its guidelines on breast cancer from treating patients with the illness.

In what is believed to be the first move of its kind, Kensington, Chelsea and Westminster Health Authority has said it will not pay for breast cancer patients treated at St Mary's Hospital in west London by any surgeon who fails to follow the protocol set out in its contract. This says that

breast cancer surgery should be carried out by specialist surgeons providing particular treatments and that patients should be seen in a "one-stop" clinic so they do not have to wait for results. A check carried out last year showed that the protocol was not being followed in every case, so the health authority tightened the contract from last April.

Keith Ford, director of commissioning, said: "We have

said we would not wish our

Hospitals accused of exaggerating expertise to win patients
Women 'misled' on cancer care

How The Times reported last week's cancer care survey

patients to be treated by anyone who is not prepared to work in the breast cancer protocols. My job is to ensure the contracts reinforce good practice."

Although the protocol is in

line with guidance issued by the Health Department, some surgeons say that health managers are now interfering too far in clinical care. Geoffrey Glazer, a general surgeon at St Mary's, who sees breast can-

cer patients privately but no longer treats new ones on the NHS, said: "I don't totally disagree with the trend to concentrate the work of breast surgeons. What I think is inappropriate is having a health authority telling you that you can do this or you can't do that. They are trying to dictate in all sorts of areas."

The drive to improve breast cancer care, which claims 13,000 lives a year in Britain, was launched last year by the Government and the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, found that one in four surgeons who do the work do not see enough cases to gain

the necessary expertise. Richard Sainsbury, consultant surgeon at Huddersfield Royal Infirmary and a member of the steering group that conducted the survey, said the contract drawn up by Kensington, Chelsea and Westminster was a sign that managers were determined to raise standards. "Contracts will tend to be used where purchasers can't get agreement. There is a problem for some surgeons who have done the work all their lives."

Margaret Ghilchuk, director

of the breast unit at St Mary's, said that the general surgeons at the hospital now referred breast patients to her and to her fellow specialist, Allan Spigelman. "They realise we do it better," she said. "The gung ho attitude of the past, when you had surgeons saying 'That's a juicy one, I'll have a go,' has gone."

A spokesman for St Mary's said: "There is no surgeon here who does not meet the protocols laid down by Kensington, Chelsea and Westminster."

MARTIN RICKETT

Smartest patients 'get the best care'

BY JEREMY LAURANCE

THE way patients dress affects the way they are treated and could even determine their chances of survival, a doctor has claimed.

Middle-class patients benefit most from the NHS, with longer consultations, more health education and quicker referrals to specialists, according to Dr Phil Hammond, of Bristol University. Donning smart clothes is the quickest route to first-class treatment.

The most extreme example is the observation that hospital staff try harder for longer to resuscitate you if you have your cardiac arrest while wearing a suit rather than split jeans," he said. "If you look like a potential litigant, or a friend of the consultant, you get the works." But Dr Hammond, a lecturer in general practice, said that he had no hard evidence to support his view, which was based on anecdotal observation.

The British Medical Association dismissed the claim that smart clothes would guarantee quicker attention, but conceded that appearance could affect treatment. Dr Sandy Macara, chairman of the BMA council, said: "My experience of casualty is that patients are seen strictly in order of arrival unless there are clear reasons why they should be treated more urgently. But doctors are human. No doubt the way people are handled depends on the way they present themselves."

Leading article, page 21

Woman challenges hospital's right to impose Caesarean

BY JOANNA BALE

A WOMAN is to take pioneering legal action after being forced by a hospital's court order to have a Caesarean section against her wishes.

The woman, who has not been named, intends to test the legality of the ruling in an attempt to seek compensation and prevent other women going through the same ordeal. In a separate action, the Association for Improvement in Maternity Services (Aims) is planning to mount a similar challenge.

Both are being represented by Barbara Hewson, a barrister who offered to give free legal advice and representation when it emerged last week that a High Court judge had authorised doctors to carry out Caesareans against the mother's will in two other cases. The rulings were criticised by medical and legal bodies after they appeared to give courts much wider powers to impose surgery without a patient's consent. The patients in both cases were unrepresented in court.

Beverley Beech of Aims said: "We are horrified at the way in which women have

been denied their legal rights and forced into accepting this treatment despite vigorous protests. This will merely encourage more women to avoid antenatal care — some already do this in order to ensure a home birth."

Court powers to sanction surgery have traditionally been limited to cases where the patient is mentally ill or unconscious. Last week it was thought that Mr Justice Johnson was breaking new ground after overruling two women who did not want Caesareans when doctors said they were at risk of rupturing their wombs, putting their lives and that of their babies in danger.

Now that a further case has emerged, lawyers believe many more women have undergone forced Caesareans after secret emergency court rulings in which the patients were unrepresented. A legal source said: "We now know of five family division judges who have done this and there may be many more."

It is unclear on what grounds the rulings will be challenged. The source added: "There is a theory that these

orders are worthless because the women are never represented in court. They are often done in a very sneaky way and presented as a *fait accompli* to the woman while she is in labour. The other option is that the woman can assert that she was wrongly imprisoned."

In one of the cases to emerge last week, Rochdale Healthcare Trust applied for a court order after a woman refused a Caesarean because she had suffered painful after-effects from such an operation before.

She had said: "I would rather die than have a Caesarean again."

The judge said: "I concluded that a patient who could speak in terms which seemed to accept the inevitability of her own death was not a patient who was able properly to weigh up the considerations."

The second case involved a woman in labour after a car accident. The judge ruled that "reasonable force" was permitted in authorising surgery because she was incapable of weighing up the considerations involved. A psychiatrist said she was not suffering a mental disorder.



Margaret Harper with a picture of her daughter, Sharon Tabarn, who died after being hypnotised on stage

Call for curbs on stage hypnotists

BY ADAM FRESCO

A SOLICITOR representing families who claim to be victims of stage hypnotists has predicted further fatalities unless restrictions are introduced.

Martin Smith has lodged an application for a fresh inquest after a verdict of death by natural causes on a woman who died only hours after being hypnotised to believe

that she was receiving a 10,000-volt electric shock. A pathologist said that the victim, Sharon Tabarn, 24, a mother of two, died of a fit.

Mr Smith said: "I have seen first-hand the damage hypnosis can cause. I have lodged an application with the Attorney-General to order a fresh inquiry on Sharon Tabarn, who had no history of epilepsy. My fear is that if something is not done, there could be further deaths."

He is representing Mrs Tabarn's mother, Margaret Harper, from Preston, Lancashire, who said the hypnotist did not know that her daughter had a phobia of electricity. Mrs Harper, a founder of the Campaign Against Stage

Hypnosis, said: "I believe that telling her she would be getting 10,000 volts of electricity was the worst thing he could do. I feel it triggered something inside her that frightened her and caused her death."

Mr Smith is also representing Lynne Howarth, 36, who is suing the hypnotist Philip Green for causing psychiatric damage and leading her to attempt suicide twice.

Mrs Howarth, a mother of seven from Bolton, Greater Manchester, was also told by Mr Green, whose stage name is Philip Damon, to pretend that she would be brought out of her trance by a 10,000-volt shock. Friends at the show said that she looked bewil-

dered when she came to and her husband was so worried that he asked the hypnotist to try again to bring her out of the trance. In documents lodged last week at Blackburn County Court, she is claiming damages for mental suffering and loss of earnings after her husband took six months off work to look after her.

Mrs Howarth, who finally recovered from the incident in 1994 with help from a hypnotherapist, said: "For six months I didn't even go out of the house and tried to commit suicide on a couple of occasions. I became very abusive towards my children. I just wasn't myself. It makes me very angry that these people can get away with this."

23rd September 1996

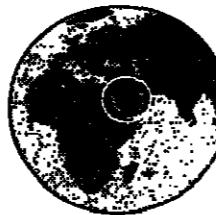


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Three celebrations of British skill

WHILE industrialists and politicians were being entertained at the City of London's Mansion House last week, a young Arab pilot who had been flown to the capital from the Gulf in a moribund state was enjoying his first night out after being discharged from Cromwell Hospital. The next afternoon Willie Carson was sent flying by a kick in the upper abdomen at Newbury.

The pilot, Carson, the Lord Mayor of London and his guests celebrating the 21st anniversary of the Liver Research Trust now all have one interest in common: the care of the liver and the determination that Britain does not lose its pre-eminent role in international liver research.

The pilot's liver problem began when he left his cockpit for compulsory infantry train-

ing in the desert, where he developed severe heatstroke. The 18-year-old trainee's sweating diminished, his temperature rose alarmingly, convulsions began and he lapsed into unconsciousness.

His heart, burdened beyond its capacity, failed to maintain an adequate circulation to the liver and kidneys. As the kidneys gave up, they stopped passing urine and he developed serious jaundice from liver failure. Close to death, he was flown to London for dialysis and treatment under Professor Roger Williams.

consultant to the research trust and to King's College and Cromwell hospitals. British expertise triumphed and on Thursday, after three weeks in hospital, he was discharged to outpatient care.

While the pilot's problems are medical, Carson's are surgical. A normal-sized liver is protected by the ribs and in many jockeys' cases by body armour. Even so, the kick of a two-year-old thoroughbred filly's back leg was enough to cause bleeding in a friable and vascular organ.

Liver surgery, like liver

medicine, is highly developed in Britain and Carson can be certain that, even if he needs surgery, he will, barring unexpected complications, be riding next season. Healthy livers regenerate and even a jockey who loses up to two thirds of one should manage the Derby next year and half a bottle of wine afterwards to celebrate.

The Mansion House reception celebrated not only 21 years of the trust but also the foundation of the Institute of Hepatology, which is being built at University College London. Under Professor Williams it will investigate viral hepatitis, gene therapy in liver disease and bio-artificial liver support devices.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

The Queen sends Carson best wishes for recovery

THE Queen has sent a get-well message to Willie Carson, the injured jockey. Her best wishes were delivered in a telephone message from Sir Robert Fellowes, her Private Secretary, to staff at North Hampshire Hospital in Basingstoke. Yesterday Carson, 53, was said to be "out of immediate

danger", but remained in intensive care. His liver was damaged by a kick from the horse he was about to mount at Newbury on Friday. The need for surgery has not been ruled out.

Carson has ridden many winners for the Queen, notably Dunfermline, which won the 1977 Oaks and St Leger.

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Multimillion-pound collection of medieval treasures faces dispersal

'Fantastic' sale takes art world by surprise

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the world's richest private collections of medieval enamels is for sale and is likely to be dispersed because few public institutions could ever hope to raise the multimillion-pound asking price.

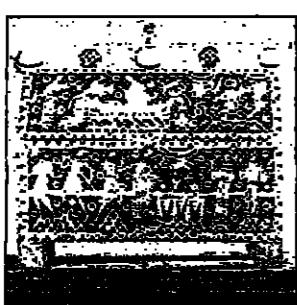
Curators can only dream of acquiring the caskets, crosses and candlesticks included among nearly 200 treasures dating back to the 12th century. They have been amassed since the Second World War and are being sold by a Hungarian collector who lives in Britain.

The sheer scale of the Keir collection — one of only two or three comparable private holdings worldwide — overshadows the importance of the Thomas à Becket casket, which dates from the same period as many of the collection's pieces and fetched £4.18 million at auction in July. Any estimates for the entire collection would greatly exceed this figure. One scholar said: "This is going to cost megabucks. It's a fantastic collection."

Many of the enamelled masterpieces in the collection bear the same dazzling Limoges craftsmanship as the Becket casket, which is now owned by the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Although there is some confusion over which pieces are for sale, or whether any of them have been sold individually, the collection includes a cross described by the British Museum as outstanding among late 12th-century crosses; a Virgin and Child whose softly modelled tunics date it to the 1220s; and a casket depicting Christ and the Apostles, which was made about 1190. The craftsmanship is as delicate as the enamelling and gilding are radiant.

The Keir Collection boasts treasures dating from the 12th to 16th centuries from abbeys



The Thomas Becket casket cost £4 million

and churches throughout Europe. It was on loan from 1981 to 1982 to the British Museum, whose curator, Neil Stratford, described its quality as remarkable. The collection was loaned in 1982 to the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City, Missouri, where it remained until a few months ago.

It was assembled in the 1950s and 1960s by Ernst and Martha Kofler-Truniger, of Lucerne, Switzerland; they had at one time also owned the Becket casket. In 1971 Edmund de Unger, a Hungarian believed to be in his early seventies and who has lived in Britain for decades, acquired the Kofler-Truniger holdings and continued adding pieces to them.

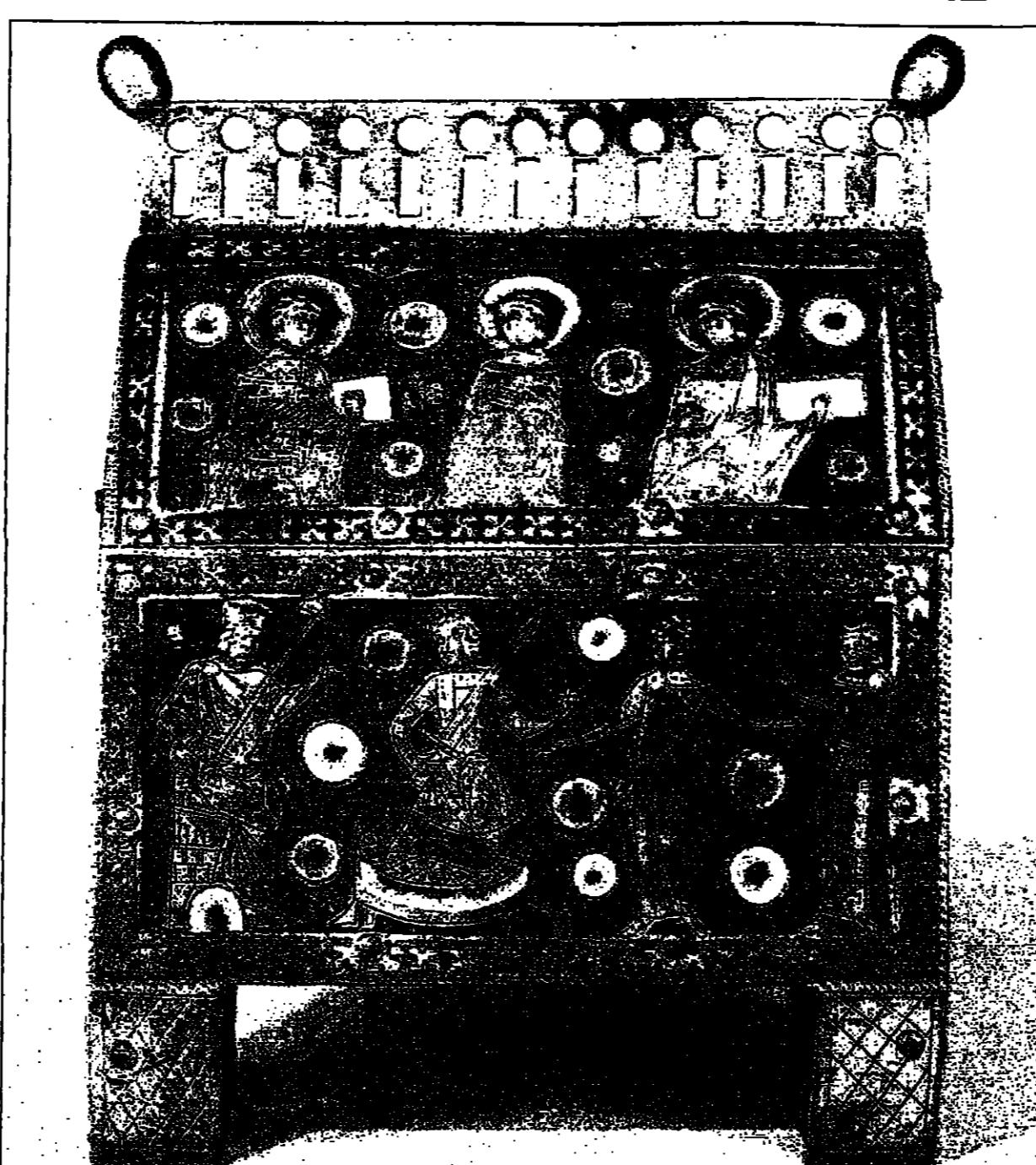
He built up a collection which Mark Wilson, director of the Nelson-Atkins Museum, described as "a monument to a collector's taste and acumen". Mr de Unger, who is married with children, has been described as a very private and cultured man who is immensely proud of his collection.

But his eye extends to other areas: he has built a museum-quality collection of Islamic art on which, it is thought, he intends to concentrate his interests. One source said that the medieval collection was owned by a foundation in Zurich, where the pieces are stored at present.

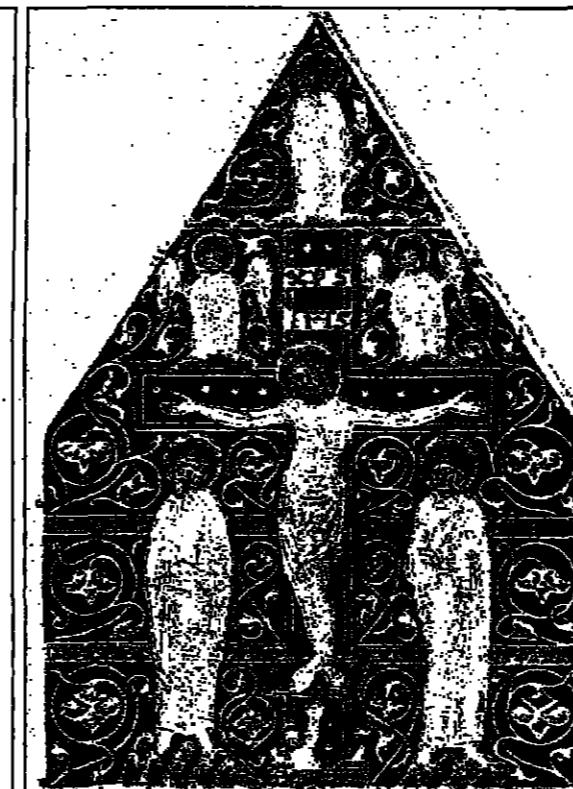
As Marilyn Stokstad, consultant to the Nelson-Atkins Museum, explained in her catalogue, "the deceptively simple description of enamel — the fusing of coloured glass to a metal plate — belies the skill required of artists who created masterworks in such a delicate yet recalculable medium".

Many of the pieces were made with the *champlevé* technique, particularly favoured in the 12th and early 13th centuries by artists in southwestern France and northern Spain. This involved the artist gouging and chiselling his design into the bronze or copper plate and filling the spaces with enamel.

A handbook from the 12th century suggested that the craftsman polish the piece with spit and powdered potsherds until the enamel was so bright that "if part of it were wet, one could not tell wet from dry".



Treasures from the Keir collection: a casket dating from 1200-1210, above, depicts the martyrdom of St Stephen. A gable-shaped plaque with two martyred saints from the same period, below left, and casket from about 1185.



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Deckchairs fight on the beaches

By ROBIN YOUNG

TOURISM chiefs on the English Riviera are considering swapping their 10,000 traditional wood and canvas deckchairs for continental-style loungers in an attempt to attract more overseas sunbathers.

Gordon Oliver, a Torbay councillor, has suggested that the South Devon coast might look a little more convincing if its beach furniture was more on a par with French or Spanish resorts. Torbay has already bought 500 loungers and Mr Oliver believes they will gradually become a more popular sight at the British seaside.

But his idea has provoked fury among traditionalists who want Torbay to remain quintessentially English, with grumpy holidaymakers sitting uncomfortably in sagging deckchairs, sometimes referred to as the physiotherapists' best friend because of their contribution to lower-back problems.

Mr Oliver said: "After I first suggested getting rid of the deckchairs all my friends were trying to find one for me to sit

in as a joke, but when they looked in their garden sheds they all had sun loungers. I think that makes my point."

He said that deckchairs were seen as traditional in Britain and older people possibly preferred them, but he thought most visitors would rather use a lounger. Hundreds of Torbay's deckchairs are now 30 years old. "I think we should start phasing them out in favour of something more modern and conveniently adjustable."

Derek Mills, who manages Torbay's beaches, said that he hoped to give visitors a choice, but accepted that the 500 loungers already in use were proving popular.

Christine Boote, chairman of the Torbay Hotels and Caterers Association, said that she did not object to loungers being introduced to allow visitors greater choice, but objected to deckchairs being put to rest. "I get a little bit browned off with us always trying to be like the real Riviera. What's wrong with being English and a little bit different?"

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TUESDAY'S
10P TIMES
SEE VOUCHER
ON PAGE 10

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Sunrise lifts the spirits of our man at the Pole

The most distant reader of The Times on the Internet is Simon Hart, a British physicist working at the South Pole. Here he describes life in a six-month winter

FOR most Times readers the end of summer is no cause for celebration. But for those of us stranded at the most southerly spot on Earth, Thursday was a day we had looked forward to. It was when our long, dark winter ended and we saw the sun for the first time in six months.

As the clouds cleared we could see the top of the sun peeking over the horizon. Although it was late at night, most of the personnel at the Amundsen-Scott Base gathered to witness the event. It was a surprisingly quiet affair, most people just standing around displaying big grins, basking in the first rays of light at the end of what had been a very long, dark tunnel. When you are restricted to one sunrise a year it is a moment to savour and, despite the cold, I stood watching for almost an hour as the snow surface turned a wonderful shade of lilac.

We find strange ways to pass the time in winter. When the weather first dropped below -100F, we climbed into the sauna, waited for it to heat up to 200F, then stripped naked and raced outside to the South Pole marker. It is a station tradition, and those who do it are enrolled into the exclusive 300 Club.

As one of only two Britons on the station, I would miss news of home were it not for the excellent Times Internet edition. It is particularly exciting to read the football results only hours after the games have been played.

Life here is one of extremes. During our summer the sun never sets and the glare of sunlight off the snow can be blinding. Towards midsummer the temperature soars to a balmy 0 Farenheit. Military transport planes bring us food and fuel almost daily and the station population swells to near 150; life is hectic and crowded. The station is under a 50-metre-wide aluminium dome, but most people sleep outside in long black tents. Our only water supply is from melted ice, and fuel is limited, so we make do with two two-minute showers a week.

As winter approaches, the sun gradually sinks lower and the temperature drops to the point where flying becomes too risky. The last plane left on February 22. Since then we have had no mail and the last of our fresh fruit ran out months ago. We celebrate the end of each month with a formal dinner and, despite the reliance on frozen food, our cook has prepared some excellent dishes. A hydroponic greenhouse produces enough for a small salad each week, and we have even managed to create some authentic-tasting sushi. With the sun



Simon Hart beside the South Pole marker

DEAR MR TAXMAN

I FEEL LEFT OUT

Dear Taxman I feel neglected, all my friends get tax returns to fill in but you have never sent me one.

As I am now 32 years old is there something wrong with me? Ignored, COVENTRY.

TAXMAN SAYS Age has nothing to do with whether you get a tax return or not. We will send you a tax return if you are self-employed, a company director, or someone with more complex tax affairs. Most people don't get a tax return so you're certainly not alone. However, if you receive income that has not been taxed and you haven't been sent a tax return you must tell us. Call your Tax Office and talk to someone there if you are still worried. The telephone number is in the phone book under 'Inland Revenue'.

DO I NEED AN ACCOUNTANT?

Dear Taxman To date, I have always enjoyed handling my tax affairs personally. I find it a very stimulating and interesting pastime. Will I now be forced to use an accountant and give up one of my few interests in life? Bored, DYFED.

AM I UP-TO-DATE?

Dear Taxman As soon as I buy clothes they immediately go out of style. I spend a fortune on an exotic holiday only to discover it was the place to go last year. I get rid of all my easy listening records; next day they are back in fashion. I am beginning to suspect that I may be just one of those people who is always behind the times. How can I be sure that I am up-to-date with my tax? Concerned, LEICESTER.

TAXMAN SAYS Not if you don't wish to. If you already deal with tax affairs yourself there is no reason to change. In fact, if you are organised and

NO MORE TAX

Dear Taxman Is Self Assessment just a cunning way of wheedling more tax out of me? Paranoid, BARNES.

TAXMAN SAYS No. Self Assessment is not a new tax and does not affect the amount of tax you pay. It is just a clearer and more straightforward system for working out and paying tax.

How big is it?

Dear Taxman How big is the new Self Assessment tax form? I have a bad back and the doctor says I can't do any heavy lifting. Worried, BRADFORD.

TAXMAN SAYS From next April most people will get a basic, slim-line, eight-page tax return, along with any extra pages we think you may need. (If, for example,

you are self-employed, there will be four extra pages to fill in.) You will get a full list of the supplementary pages available and if you think any apply to you, you'll have plenty of time to send off for them. Guidance notes to help you fill in your tax return and work out your tax bill — if you want to — will be sent out with the forms.

Please send me more information about Self Assessment. Please tick a box if you are: Self-employed Employed A Pensioner Seeking work

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Ashdown dampens speculation of closer ties after MP talks of possible merger

Lib Dems try to avoid split on Labour

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

THE Liberal Democrat leadership fought last night to prevent the party's annual conference being overshadowed by an internal dispute over the party's links with Labour.

Paddy Ashdown and senior colleagues moved swiftly to dampen speculation that the party was preparing closer ties with Labour after a senior Liberal Democrat said that growing consensus could even lead to a merger. The suggestion by Alex Carlile, the home affairs spokesman, threatened to anger Liberal Democrat activists who have bitterly opposed any step towards a closer working relationship with Labour.

Mr Carlile said he saw two parties in future: "One Conservative Party and the other a democratic party — a liberal democrat, or social democrat

or democratic socialist party, and I don't think the terminology matters very much."

That party would "pick up those values which have driven the old Liberal Party and also the views of people like Tony Blair". He also told BBC's *On the Record* that the Liberal Democrats should show interest if offered posts in a Blair-led government.

The comments by Mr Carlile, who is standing down as MP for Montgomery, threatened to wreck the efforts of Mr Ashdown, who earlier in the day had tried to reassure party members that he was not planning closer links with Mr Blair. Although Mr Carlile was known to hold strong views on the relationship between the two parties senior colleagues were surprised that he had aired them at

such a sensitive time in the run-up to the election.

Mr Ashdown was scathing about Mr Blair's decision to ignore the Liberal Democrats in Scotland by calling a referendum on a Scottish Assembly, against the recommendations of a convention led jointly by the two parties. Conscious of rank-and-file worries about the prospect of informal pacts, he took a hostile stance towards Labour, although he again praised Mr Blair's "courage" in bringing about change. "The Labour Party has slithered about, especially on the issue of Scottish devolution, has done great damage to the whole process of cooperative politics," Mr Ashdown said on *Breakfast with Frost*.

The people's trust in the parties involved in campaigning for Scottish devolution had been "seriously dam-

aged — and it has given the Conservative Party in the process a weapon they should not have, to prevent one of the changes my party has been committed to for 100 years, the formation of a sensible parliament in a devolved country".

He added: "It is probably the biggest mistake Mr Blair has made. It is the question of how far can Labour be trusted. What do they believe in? How deep does that Blair revolution go?"

Despite Liberal Democrat attempts to play down talk of links with Labour, the issue has come to the fore in recent weeks with inter-party discussions on constitutional reform. Activists gathering in Brighton for their annual conference last night were adamant that the party should make itself distinctive from Labour. Menzies Campbell, the Liberal Dem-

ocrat foreign affairs spokesman, conceded that closer connections had been made more possible by the "shedding of so much of the historic baggage of Labour policy".

Mr Campbell has led moves to bring the parties closer together, particularly in Scotland, but he criticised Labour's policy change on the assembly. "Unilateral action of the kind we have seen would rupture any agreement, formal or informal. The more formal the agreement, the more likely the rupture."

Last night Mr Ashdown said: "Alex Carlile has put forward his own view. It isn't mine. I don't think it's shared very widely in the party either."

Matthew Parris and Peter Riddell, page 20
Leading article, page 21

Women wooed with 'cosy family' image

By ALICE THOMSON
POLITICAL REPORTER

PADDY ASHDOWN set out to woo women voters yesterday, promising that the Liberal Democrats were the only female-friendly party.

The Liberal Democrat leader is convinced that women are "turned off" by the aggressive slanging matches of Tony Blair and John Major". He wants to induce a "cosy family atmosphere" at this week's conference to encourage more women into the fold. Mr Ashdown believes that if the party can capture the women's vote it could win up to 40 seats.

His wife Jane has refused to follow Normal Major and Cherie Blair, who have recently given interviews discussing everything from knitting patterns to their favourite paintings. Mrs Ashdown appeared on Brighton Pier with her husband yesterday morning but has told friends she will not get involved in a competition over her "wifely assets". Instead a triumvirate of Liberal Democrat women will be pushed forward.

Baroness Williams of Crosby, one of the gang of four who founded the SDP in 1981, has been enticed back from America to take a central role in the run-up to the election. She has been asked to help to create a



Nicholson: party's most glamorous asset

"softer, more listening style of politics". Although aides are worried about her legendary scatterness and rumpled appearance they think she has the gravitas to appeal to elderly voters.

Mr Ashdown yesterday launched *The Liberal Democrat Fair Deal for Women* pamphlet, which declares: "We aim to build a Britain where every woman can shape her own future by developing her skills, enhancing her strengths, for her benefit and that of the whole community."

Emma Nicholson, the MP who recently defected from the Tories, will also play a key role. She is considered the Liberal Democrats' most glamorous asset and has attacked her old party for its "patronising attitude to women". Dressed in a yellow anorak, she signed copies yesterday of her book about the Tory party, *Secret Society*.

She said that the Tories were "incompetent and cruel" and that their campaign would be "filthy beyond belief". Diana Maddock, spokesperson on women and family policy, is the third in the triumvirate and known for her no-nonsense, housewife approach.

"He lay on my bed and said that it was part of my duty to give him pleasure. I cried and begged him to leave me alone, but he grew angry and began to hit me around the head and call me bad names."

"I cannot remember what happened next — I must have passed out. When I woke up my face was swollen and bruised and my pyjamas were ripped and torn on the floor. There was blood on my body and I hurt every-

ECONOMY: Malcolm Bruce, Treasury spokesman, tells activists that some priorities must be shelved to curb spending plans in run-up to general election. Redfins 50p tax rate for earners over £100,000 to remove 750,000 earners from tax.

LIBERAL DEMOCRAT CONFERENCE AGENDA



LEADER'S SPEECH: Paddy Ashdown calls on party to take courage in spelling out clarity of core policies on education, Europe, taxation and the environment and to contrast Lib Dem consistency with Labour policy changes.

DEVOLUTION: Jim Wallace, Scottish spokesman, leads Lib Dem backlash against Labour's decision to hold a referendum on a Scottish assembly, against the recommendation of a convention led by the two parties. Expected to wade into party may block the plan in Parliament.

CRIME: Party calls for ban on handguns and laws to prevent stalking. Wants new ways of dealing with criminals, including reconciliation meetings with victims and family conferences for juvenile offenders. Calls on councils to set up mediation sessions for neighbours in dispute.

WATER/ENERGY: Activists reinforce party's conservation credentials by demanding meters for heavy water users and setting targets for reducing carbon dioxide emissions. Curb water company profits by imposing 2 per cent levy, to be used as grants to promote water-efficient appliances.

ABUSE OF SERVANTS: First party to hold conference debate on "slavery" in Britain as activists hear of 2,000 overseas servants suffering sexual and physical abuse at the hands of wealthy employers, including diplomats.

OVERSEAS AID: Party risks dissent over radical break from past spending commitment by doubling to ten years the period in which overseas development budget will reach United Nations target.

Party to debate claims that Britain is a 'slave haven'

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SERVANTS subjected to sexual assault, starvation and imprisonment are to provoke a new wave of political debate on slavery in Britain. 163 years after its supposed abolition.

Campaigners claim that Britain has become a "slave haven" for wealthy foreign employers, including senior diplomats, who can abuse their servants without the fear of court action.

Immigration rule changes introduced by the Government prevent many foreign domestic staff from leaving their jobs, even if they have suffered physical abuse. Migrant workers who enter Britain as servants are allowed to stay only while remaining with their original employer.

Since 1987, campaigners have recorded more than 2,000 cases of abuse of domestic workers. They include those who have been made to work 18 hours a day, been refused time off and been barred from leaving the house. Others have been re-

fused payment for months at a time — in one case, for four years — and have had their passports confiscated or have been refused their own bed.

Many of the cases involve employers from Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka and Nepal.

Campaign groups claim that allegations of slavery are justified because the lack of help offered to servants by the Government allows employers total control of their workers' lives. Although employers can be prosecuted, campaigners say that police are reluctant to take action against overseas employers who may not stay in Britain for long. Domestic staff whose English poor also face difficulties in pressing charges.

The Liberal Democrats have set aside a prime slot for a debate at this month's conference — just before Mr Ashdown makes his speech.

Slavery was abolished in Britain by the party's predecessors,

the Whig Government,

in 1833. The issue will come to the fore again at the Labour Party conference in Blackpool when Kalayaan will address a fringe meeting.

Margaret Healy, Kalayaan co-ordinator, said: "It's time that the abuse was taken seriously by ministers. It's so blatant and so easy to prove and yet the law allows these workers to be treated differently from other staff in Britain. We are treating overseas workers in a way that other countries in Europe do not."

Home Office ministers have considered changing the law but argue that by allowing servants to leave their employers, it would become more difficult to keep control of the 12,000 domestic staff who enter Britain each year. Campaigners say that the present system encourages staff to leave their jobs, change their identity and take other work illegally, which makes it impossible for immigration authorities to trace them.

Several of the older party supporters had scanned extracts of the book published in *The Sunday Times*. Jeff Allen, a former Liberal from Poole, said:

"Thorne wouldn't recognise our party now. We have changed — all that is in the past and the poor man should be left in peace. Politics was a different game in those days."

Most Liberal Democrats were hard pushed to remember the sensational case. Andrew Wall, 27, the parliamentary prospective candidate for York, said: "I was only seven at the time. This is ancient history. We are by far the cleanest party now and very different from the old Liberals."

CASE HISTORIES

where I do not know what he did."

Samantha, 27, was made a virtual prisoner by her employer. He took her passport, prevented her from using the telephone and refused to let her leave the flat alone.

She thought that his wife

helped her. But the woman told her she was lazy, dirty and unfit to look after her children, and on one occasion beat her with a broom.

"They told me I could not eat food from the fridge — only scraps that they left from their meals," Samantha said. "I was hungry and frightened. I could not understand why they were treating me like an animal they didn't like."

With calculating cruelty, Samantha's employers would occasionally show kindness to their maid. "I cried with gratitude when they were nice and then they would start to hurt me again. I thought I was going mad."

"She had put up with daily abuse only because she believed that her wages of about

£120 a month were sent to her family in the Philippines. She escaped after discovering that this was a lie."

Another Filipina, Annie, 37, was never struck by her employers, a Lebanese couple living in London. But they watched with amusement while their child beat her for fun. "The girl's kicks and punches hurt me a lot," she said. "The blows to my breasts caused bruising and much pain. Her parents weren't concerned at all — I was less than human to them."

Soon after her arrival in London she realised that she was a prisoner. Her passport was taken away and she was not allowed to leave her employers' home or use the telephone. "They made me sleep on the floor," she said. "I was their slave. The working day began at 6am and frequently I worked 18 hours before going to sleep again."

Annie came to Britain to earn money to feed her children in the Philippines, but her wages were never paid. Her

letters home were torn up. When she could endure no more she ran away.

Father Aodh O'Halpin, a Roman Catholic priest in London who helps migrant workers who are abused by their employers, said that Annie's case was "depressing and typical". He added: "They are maltreated seven days a week, 18 hours a day. They are badly fed, made to sleep in broom cupboards or lavatories and abused sexually and physically. It is abject degradation."

FOR TUESDAY'S 10P TIMES SEE VOUCHER ON PAGE 10

Thorne claims fail to excite

By ALICE THOMSON

THE Liberal Democrats last night shrugged off new allegations about Jeremy Thorne, his homosexual affairs, financial manipulation and the Establishment's attempts to protect him.

The claims about the former Liberal leader are based on *Rinkergarten — the Rise and Fall of Jeremy Thorne*, a new book on his alleged complicity in a plot to murder Norman Scott, a charge of which he was acquitted.

Liberal Democrat MPs distanced themselves from the most charismatic leader of the Liberals, disowning him as part of their past. None wanted to talk about the man who delivered six million votes for his party in 1974.

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FOR TUESDAY'S 10P TIMES SEE VOUCHER ON PAGE 10

10P

Euro-sceptics make waves in England's seaside conference towns

During the party conference season, diplomats from neighbouring EU states will be prowling the hotel corridors of rain-swept seaside towns in search of the answer to just one question: Has Britain gone irrecoverably Eurosceptic?

Whenever one of these seekers after the truth of Britain's mysterious mind-set on Europe asks me, I usually reply that Britons still like Europe as much as they ever did — it is just the EU that worries them. But I am forced to admit in the same breath that the British debate overlaps less and less with the continental agenda and is more and more a struggle between

Foreign Office, Gordon Brown's advisers and a brace of former foreign secretaries. Britons cannot be cajoled into seeing Europe through German, French or Belgian eyes. Advocates of a single currency are reduced to urging British membership on the grounds that all the other options available are worse.

Most of the British political class, not to mention wider public opinion, stubbornly refuse to accept the blinding advantages of the single currency or to agree with Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, that the choice over deeper integration is between peace and war, or to regard Europe as more important than jobs, the health service or schools.

If I were a London-based diplomat for another EU country, I would be bound to conclude that the British political class was converging on a more sceptical outlook and diverging from the continent.

The term "sceptic" has, of course, been mangled and misused by Westminster tribal warfare, but Tory Euroscepticism is only one variety of the range available. Mis-trust of Brussels works for advertisers.

Five years ago, Becks of selling beer by lampooning Eurocrats. The tone on the Left and in the Centre has altered. An editorial in *The Independent* inveighs

against nationalism and xenophobia but comes out against economic and monetary union; *Guardian* writers criticise the EU's direction. Last week in *The Times*, Paddy Ashdown took a characteristically athletic leap over Labour and sounded more mistrustful of the EU than Tony Blair.

Fresh straws in the wind floated past last week in the shape of pamphlets from the Centre for European Reform, a Left-inclined think-tank backed by multinationals and Labour intellectuals, worried that the party is not thinking hard enough about the EU. Of the six authors writing in the keynote pamphlet, only one argues from a truly continental outlook. Two essays berate

the rest of Europe for wasting precious time and energy on monetary union when so much needs to be done with Central Europe.

All the contributors may grow lukewarm, sensible and sceptical when contemplating the EU that we actually have, but they are still dead keen that Britain should join the party. Using exactly that image, one writer urges Britain towards more social self-confidence.

We should not be a "sullen adolescent guest — too shy to dance, too nervous to leave — but the heart and soul of the party; a good companion committed by instinct to make a worthwhile event even better".

Attitude and style matter in

diplomacy, but the present EU is also the site of a permanent negotiation over the distribution of power. Power battles involve hard choices about national interests and, worse still, there are winners and losers.

For a clear analysis of New Labour's European prospects, you need this week's *Fabian pamphlet* from Graham Leeser, a former diplomat, who asks "Can Blair Succeed where Major Failed?". Because Labour is dodging the difficult issues. Mr Leeser seems to doubt that Mr Blair can bridge the gap which opened beneath John Major when he went looking for the heart of Europe.

GEORGE BROCK

Spanish Prince avoids Charles's blunders

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

FEARFUL of the "Prince Charles syndrome", the Spanish royal household has plunged Crown Prince Felipe into a hectic schedule of public engagements.

Royal aides here, having observed the apparent disengagement in Britain with the Prince of Wales, are anxious to ensure that the 29-year-old heir to the Spanish throne wins public confidence early on.

"We cannot afford to let Prince Felipe wither on the vine, as Prince Charles seems to have done," said a source close to the Crown. "Britain is now paying the price for keeping the Queen's successor on the shelf for so long. Spain must avoid that error at all costs."

The last time King of Spain inherited the throne and passed it on to his successor was in the late 18th century — when Charles IV succeeded Charles III — and King Juan Carlos is determined to provide his son with a trouble-free succession.

Prince Felipe's busy schedule is aimed at raising his profile with the public, and school him in affairs of state. "Prince Charles is a well-meaning man with too much time on his hands," another Spanish Crown source said. "That is a recipe for disaster in an heir to the throne. Our Crown Prince has to work, work, work and to learn from British blunders."

According to the Oxford historian Charles Powell, author of a recent biography of King Juan Carlos, Prince Felipe is "on paper, the most highly qualified heir Spain has ever had". He gained an arts degree in Madrid and a Master's in International Relations at Georgetown University in Washington.

"He also has the inestimable advantage of being able to get to know his country's people before ascending the throne, something his father could never do," Dr Powell said.

Close attention is being paid to finding a wife for the heir. Now that his alleged romance with Giselle "Gigi" Howard, an American psychology student, appears to have fizzled out, speculation has arisen that his public engagements may soon include a betrothal to Princess Tatiana of Lichtenstein.

Papandreou family feud overshadows Greek poll campaign

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ATHENS

AS 8.5 million Greeks went to the polls yesterday in a close contest between Left and Right, the shade of Andreas Papandreou, the late Prime Minister, returned to haunt his successors in Pasok, the ruling Pan Hellenic Socialist Party. Papandreou's striking and controversial widow, Dimitra Liana — better known as Mimi — accused her detractors in Pasok of being "little men" who did not measure up to her late husband.

The Mimi factor exploded in what had been a quiet campaign. A former air hostess, Mimi was constantly at Papandreou's side during his final years and has kept his memory alive since he died three months ago. She has largely kept out of the election campaign, apart from the dry observation that it was "a drama without protagonists".

The election was called by Papandreou's successor, Costas Simitis, a year earlier in the hope of capitalising on the respect he had won as a modernising pro-European technocrat. But Mr Simitis, 60, has seen his standing in the opinion polls fall from 70 per cent to 30 per cent, partly because of the schism caused by the formation of a left-wing Euro-sceptical splinter group, Dikki, led by Dimitris Tsolvas, a former Finance Minister, and partly because Mr Simitis lacks Papandreou's common touch.

Sophie Katsanevas, Papandreou's daughter, said she and her husband, Theodore, a leading Pasok figure described in Papandreou's will as a "disgrace", were contesting the legacy. Mrs Papandreou said she believed Mr and Mrs Katsanevas were behind a "campaign of hatred" against her, including the release to the media of photographs showing her naked.

In the final days of the



Mimi Papandreou, widow of the former Greek Prime Minister, voting in Athens yesterday



The Pope blesses the 200,000 crowd gathered for the Mass at Rheims yesterday, the final day of his tour

Secular protests condemn papal Mass for Clovis

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN RHEIMS

THE Pope celebrated the religious conversion of a pagan French king yesterday as hundreds of demonstrators gathered in Paris to denounce the papal visit and declare that France is a secular state with no need for popes or kings.

The fourth and final day of the Pope's tour illustrated two opposed conceptions of the French national identity: the first Catholic, traditional and with a residual taste for monarchy; the other secular, republican and founded on the ideals of the 1789 Revolution.

More than 200,000 people gathered for a papal Mass at a military airbase near Rheims in northern France to mark the baptism of the Frankish King Clovis 1,500 years ago, an event which many tradi-

tionalists and the extreme-right National Front have hailed as symbolising the birth of France. As wine for the Mass was distributed from barrels carried through the crowd, some of the congregation waved banners proclaiming: "Baptism of Clovis — Baptism of France."

At the same time secular and left-wing groups held demonstrations insisting that government participation in the Clovis festivities violates the separation of church and state and undermines republican ideals.

At the battlefield of Valmy, 20 miles from Rheims, Freemasons gathered on the spot where revolutionary troops repelled Prussian and Austrian armies bent on destroying



An anti-Pope protester inside a giant condom

the Revolution. On September 22, 1792, the day after the victory, the monarchy was formally abolished and the First Republic proclaimed.

More than 70 groups, including anarchists, feminists, environmentalists, left-wing organisations and anti-racist protesters assembled at the Place de la Bastille in Paris beneath banners declaring "Religion Oppresses" to protest at the Pope's conservative teachings on sexual morality, abortion and priestly celibacy.

Demonstrators claim that £4 million of state money has been spent on the Pope's visit and the celebration of King Clovis, portrayed by some historians as a bloodthirsty warlord rather than a worthy symbol of French nationalism.

Captain of Korean submarine shot dead

Seoul: The captain of a North Korean submarine was tracked down by South Korean troops and killed in a gun battle yesterday, the army reported. The exchange was one of two during the night (Nick Long writes).

Another infiltrator in a South Korean uniform and two South Korean soldiers also died in the clashes, bringing to three the total of Seoul soldiers killed since the start of the operation.

Rocket-propelled grenades and missile launchers may have been brought ashore by the North Koreans, who infiltrated the South last week, according to a prisoner's reported testimony.

Lee Kwang Su, the captured North Korean, was quoted by the *Hankook Ilbo* newspaper as saying that weapons and explosives were on board the submarine that ran aground off the east coast of South Korea on Wednesday.

A senior South Korean intelligence official denied any such weapons or missiles had been found on the submarine, but the prisoner was quoted as saying they may have been thrown overboard or taken ashore in the days before the submarine ran aground.

Although the prisoner has changed his story more than once, his latest revelation fits with the view of some military sources that the mission was more than reconnaissance.

In particular it may help to explain why, in contrast to previous infiltrations, the agents and crew apparently numbered more than 25, many of whom were officers.

Armenia's head faces challenge

Moscow: President Levon Ter-Petrosyan of Armenia was fighting off a strong challenge from his former Prime Minister in the country's first post-Soviet presidential elections. Vazgen Manukyan, Prime Minister in 1990 and 1991, promises to crack down on corruption. (AP)

Avalanche toll

Kathmandu: Two Nepali sherpas and a French climber, Yves Bouchon, 47, a surgeon from Nancy, died on Mount Everest in an avalanche, Nepal's Tourism Ministry said. They were on three separate expeditions. (Reuters)

Corsica blasts

Ajaccio: Bombs thought to have been planted by Corsican nationalists exploded outside six Post Offices before dawn yesterday. No injuries, but considerable damage, resulted from the blasts across the south of the island. (AP)

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UP TIMES

Haul of heroin on Samper jet adds to Colombia's woes

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK AND GABRIELLA GAMINI IN BOGOTÁ

PRESIDENT Samper of Colombia, who flew to New York at the weekend to make an anti-drugs speech at the United Nations, is mired in new controversy after the discovery of 7lb of heroin on board the presidential plane.

An anonymous caller alerted the Colombian Air Force to the drugs on board the Boeing 707 a few hours before it was due to carry the President to the UN General Assembly session. A search of the plane, kept under air force guard, found 14 packets of heroin.

President Samper, who switched to an Avianca commercial airliner, told a press conference before his departure that whoever had hidden the drug knew "he was dirtying the face of Colombia".

The President called it "a nasty conspiracy" to discredit him, while other government ministers implied it was part of an "international plot" to force his downfall. But he said

"greater harm" would have been done if the drugs had been detected by the US authorities on his arrival.

"There is no question someone is trying to throw mud on the President," said Carlos Medellín, the Justice Minister.

President Samper is at the centre of a major political crisis stemming from allegations that his 1994 election campaign was financed with \$6 million from the country's Cali cocaine cartel. Close aides have been jailed for illegally enriching themselves with drug traffickers' money, but the President insists he was unaware of any campaign contributions from drug barons. He has twice been acquitted by the highly partisan Colombian congress.

America, however, has stripped Señor Samper of his US tourist visa and "decertified" Colombia as a partner in its fight against illegal drugs. The Colombian President

travelled to New York on a diplomatic visa.

In his UN address today he is expected to lay out a global anti-drugs strategy that includes the creation of an international court to try drug traffickers.

Colombia provides an estimated 80 per cent of the cocaine on US streets and recently became also its largest single supplier of heroin.

At home, where demands for the President's resignation have grown louder in past months, the prevailing theory is that his political opponents planted the heroin in his jet.

A poll this week showed that more than 65 per cent of Colombians want Señor Samper to resign. Cafes along the plusher avenues in Bogotá are buzzing with a recurring question: "When will the President fall?"

Most people are wondering whether he can hold out until his mandate ends in 1998.



Tokyo shoppers battle Typhoon Violet yesterday. Three people died and six were reported missing in the storm, which caused dozens of landslides

Fraud trial forces Rao to quit as Congress chief

Delhi: India's discredited Congress Party is reeling from the resignation of P.V. Narasimha Rao, the former Prime Minister, as party president after he was ordered to appear in court to answer allegations of criminal conspiracy (Christopher Thomas writes). His 55-year political career is

evidently moving to a degrading end. His achievement is the near-destruction of the party that led India to independence by his tolerance of unprecedented high-level corruption. Once the towering force of politics, the party is now held in contempt.

The 73-year-old Congress Party

faces a leadership clamour. An interim president is due to be chosen today pending a full party election. The frontrunner is almost unknown beyond his immediate political circles: A.K. Antony, Chief Minister of the small, progressive southern state of Kerala, the only state with almost universal

literacy. He is favoured because of his reputation for honesty.

Mr Rao has been ordered to appear in court next Monday to answer an allegation that he was involved in cheating a British-based businessman, Lakshmi Pathak, who produces pickles, of £64,000 in 1987.

Kaunda ban 'puts democracy at risk'

By MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE Zambian Government's decision to bar Kenneth Kaunda, the former President, from standing again for election has thrown President Chiluba's commitment to human rights into doubt and jeopardised Zambia's experiment in democracy, according to a Commonwealth group.

A sharply critical report on next month's Zambian elections says that President Chiluba's determination to bar his predecessor was galling to many Zambians. It could lead to an embarrassing confrontation with aid donors. If the elections go ahead under these conditions, the report says, all the sacrifices of the adjustment to a market economy will come to naught.

The report, published today by the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, speaks of the growing authoritarianism of President Chiluba, who is behaving as though he had a mandate to govern as his party sees fit. It urges the dispatch of Commonwealth observers and calls on Chief Emeka Anyaoku, the Secretary-General, or a neutral Zambian to begin a dialogue between the parties.



Kaunda: barred from election campaign

Clashes at Bhutto protest

Larkana: Protesters clashed with police yesterday at the house of Mirza Bhutto, dead estranged brother of Benazir Bhutto, Pakistan's Prime Minister, blocking a condolence visit by President Leghari.

About 250 protesters accused Ms Bhutto's husband, Asif Ali Zardari, of conspiring in the death of their leader in a shootout with police. Ms Bhutto broke into tears while receiving mourners with her sister in the village of Naudero, Sindh. (Reuters)

Somali killing

Mogadishu: Three unidentified gunmen assassinated Abdi Ashir Korir, an official of the Somali militia led by Osman Ali Ato, raising fears of a new outbreak of factional fighting in the capital. (Reuters)

Macau elections

Hong Kong: Macau voters went to the polls for the last time before the 1999 handover to China. (Jonathan Mirsky writes). Unlike in Hong Kong, these elections — for eight seats in the 23-member legislature — had Peking's blessing.

Olympic row

Sydney: The Sydney 2000 Olympics logo, featuring boomerangs in the shape of an athlete, is at the centre of a legal row after four sisters from a graphic design studio said it was based on an idea they submitted twice. (AFP)

Beauty and beast

Johannesburg: Miss South Africa, who plans a ritual slaughter if she wins Miss World, has been asked by the Animal Anti-Cruelty League to end her role promoting animal rights for it.

Rock art inspires new theory of man

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

THE discovery of ancient rock art in Western Australia, which has been described as Australia's Stonehenge, could prompt a rewrite of the history of human life. Australian scientists said yesterday.

Dr Lesley Head, of the University of Wollongong, said: "The discovery is going to stimulate a whole lot of new questions. All of us involved in the project are very excited, but there is a degree of caution because the results are just so different from our present understanding."

The evidence found suggests that Aboriginal occupation of Australia could be more than double previous estimates of 60,000 years.

"We expect our findings will be thoroughly scrutinised and people will have most problems with the concept that Aborigines have been here for 116,000 years," Dr Head said. "It's just so much longer than previously thought."

His comments follow the revelation that tools used to make rock art and enormous sculpted boulders believed to

be up to 176,000 years old have been discovered at a site at Jimumi in the far north of Western Australia. Rock art believed to be up to 76,000 years old was also discovered.

Dr Head said yesterday that the archaeological team hopes to extend the search to other areas in the region.

The Jimumi excavation had unearthed chips and flakes of stone, as well as pounding tools, which had shown microscopic traces of starch residues, indicating the processing of vegetable matter for food, according to Dr Head.

"Bone doesn't survive well in that sort of constantly eroding sandstone environment," he said. "But in terms of comparing them to later groups of Aboriginal people, there's no doubt of a number of cultural similarities."

Up to now the oldest reliably dated rock art has been 32,000-year-old cave paintings in France, and most scientists have taken the view that modern humans did not exist until about 100,000 years ago.

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CHANGING TIMES



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Gone in a flash

BACK in the 1950s there was alarm when the claim was made that we could all be persuaded to do things against our will by messages flashed on a screen too fast for conscious thought. Such "subliminal" slogans were supposed to penetrate deep into the mind without our knowing, leading us to buy unwanted products or vote for completely unsuitable candidates.

The man behind the story was a New York motivational researcher called James Vicary, who claimed that advertising messages flashed for a brief instant on the screen of a drive-in cinema in Fort Dix, New Jersey, could act as "hidden persuaders". He claimed to have increased the sales of Coca-Cola and popcorn by this use.

Ever since, people given to the milder forms of neurosis have worried that they are being manipulated by ads on TV or in the cinema. Finally, three psychologists from the University of Washington in Seattle have been able to demonstrate that this worry is unfounded.

They have shown that subliminal messages do indeed have an effect, the first time this has been done in a reproducible way. But the effect is limited to the simplest of cues, lasts for only a tenth of a second or so, and has worn off before the next visit to the supermarket.

The study is published in the magazine *Science* by Professor Anthony Greenwald and colleagues. They recruited more than 300 volunteers, who were asked to identify target words as either male or female names.

Why, simply, life begins at 256

 HOW many genes does it take to sustain the simplest form of life? The human species has, at a guess, 100,000 genes while the parasitic bacterium *Mycoplasma genitalium* gets by on only 468. The steady growth of completely sequenced organisms has enabled good estimates to be made by Dr Aruday Muthigian and Dr Eugene Koonin of the US National Library of Medicine in Bethesda, Maryland.

They compared *M. genitalium* with another bacterium, *Haemophilus influenzae*, which belongs to a different bacterial lineage. The two lineages separated at least 15 billion years ago, so it is reasonable to assume that any genes the two have in common must be essential to the functioning of cells.

After comparing the two, they report in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* that 256 genes are "close to the minimum set necessary and sufficient to sustain the existence of a modern-type cell". This is very close to an estimate made by another method of about 250 genes. It looks as if fewer than this, and you are not alive.



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

or as pleasant or unpleasant. The words were flashed on a computer screen one at a time, every few seconds, and the volunteers identified them by pressing a key.

Just before each word appeared on screen, the subjects were shown a subliminal message which consisted of a meaningless string of 15 consonants, followed by a priming word, then another string of consonants. On some trials the priming and the target words agreed — they might both be female names, for example. On others, they disagreed. A female priming name might be followed by a male target name. The priming words were shown too briefly for the volunteers to be consciously aware of them. But they did have an effect on their ability to identify the target word if the volunteers were put under pressure to do so very quickly, in four tenths of a second. If they were given longer, the effect was not observed.

This shows that the priming word is influencing the process of recognising the target word, but only for a very brief period. "What we see indicates that unconscious cognition is capable of only simple mental operations compared to the powers of conscious thought," said Professor Greenwald.

"In addition," he added, "the influence of a subliminal message is fleeting, lasting only a brief flicker of time, perhaps as little as one tenth of a second." What this means is that subliminal advertising cannot sell popcorn. What a relief.

The answer to a burning question



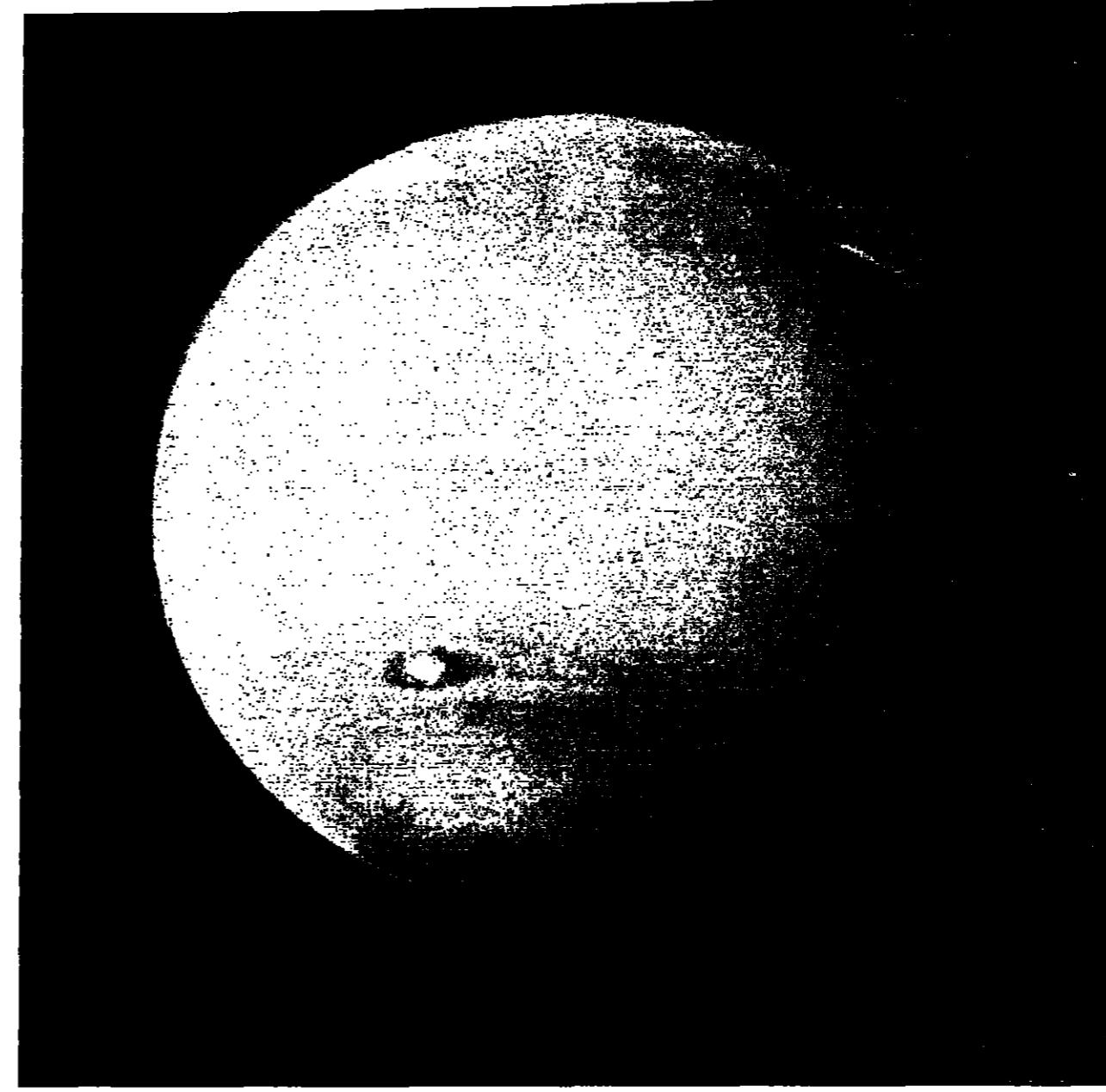
THREE undergraduates from Purdue University in Indiana have won a prize for solving the problem of what to do with birthday candles after they have been blown out. Eat them.

Adam Watkins, Amy Khal and Rahul Nair won \$5,000 for the invention of edible candles, the kind of idea that must have occurred before to some Victorian inventor. The Purdue candles are peppermint-flavoured and made from 83 per cent hydrogenated soya bean oil and 16 per cent glycerol, with the other 1 per cent coming from colouring and peppermint oil.

The candles do not drip, burn with a shorter flame and last on average 25 seconds longer than the conventional type, which generally contain paraffin. "Conventional candles are a nuisance," Mr Nair told *Chemistry in Britain*. "We wanted to make something that you didn't have to throw away, and that you wouldn't mind putting on your food." The prize came from the Indiana Soybean Development Council, to which the candles proved literally irresistible.

War of the worlds

SCIENCE PHOTO LIBRARY



Neptune's existence was calculated mathematically by John Couch Adams using aberrations in the orbit of Uranus

The discovery of the distant planet Neptune 150 years ago today sparked an international row, reports Allan Chapman

When the planet Neptune was discovered 150 years ago today, it stirred more than just headlines. It became the focus of a heated international dispute, as scientists in England and in France claimed the discovery.

Two centuries ago, Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn — the so-called "classical" planets which had been known to the Greeks — were thought to be the only bodies circling the Sun. Then, in 1781, Sir William Herschel discovered Uranus. This seventh planet was found to be twice as far away from the Sun as Saturn, at 1,783 million miles. During the next 60 years, astronomers calculated that Uranus was straying from its expected orbit. This meant one of two things. Either Newton's Universal Laws of Gravitation were not universal, and only worked successfully out to Saturn, or there was something beyond Saturn causing a gravitational disturbance.

In the 1840s, two mathematicians — one English and one French — took up the challenge. John Couch Adams, 26, of St John's College, Cambridge, was a shy young man from Cornwall. The Frenchman was Urbain J.J. Le Verrier, 34, an already eminent scientist based in Paris.

Both men, working entirely independently, followed the same reasoning. They argued that if it could be established exactly how far Uranus had strayed from its calculated orbit over the past 60 years, then the position of the unknown planet that was disturbing it could be pinpointed.

Fortunately, a detailed knowledge of Uranus's wanderings, compiled by the Greenwich and other observatories since 1781, meant that the physical data for a mathematical analysis were available. By September 1845, Adams had computed a position for the unknown planet. He took it to James Challis, director of the Cambridge Observatory. Challis gave Adams a letter of introduction to his friend Sir George Biddell Airy, the Astronomer Royal.

But Adams's attitude to social protocol was lax. He went to the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, without an appointment, and found that Airy was abroad.

On October 21, Adams reappeared at Greenwich, again without an appointment. The Airy family was now at dinner, and the butler would not allow his master to be disturbed. Adams left, leaving a note with his computed position for the new planet.

Airy responded promptly to Mr Adams, requesting more information. Adams did not reply. It was almost a year before Adams wrote another letter to Airy, and by then Le Verrier had entered the fray.

Like Airy, Le Verrier was an efficient operator, and as soon as he had obtained his own figure for the position of the new gas giant in June 1846, he published it. Astronomers across Europe were now discussing the likely discovery of another planet.

Even to those in Cambridge, where Challis began his search, the mysterious body became known as "Le Verrier's planet" and not "Adams's planet", because Adams had never published his results or made them public. And in 1846, just like today, that one staked a claim.

Finding that the Paris Observatory would not point a powerful telescope to the part of the sky in the constellation of Capricorn — in which his computed planet lay, Le Verrier wrote to colleagues in Berlin on September 18, 1845. Five days later, two Berlin astro-

mers, Galle and d'Arrest, believed that they had spied a small, dim body which appeared on no existing astronomical chart. The discovery was confirmed on the next night, when they saw that over 24 hours it had moved in the way that planets do but stars do not. They announced their results on September 25.

The news reached London on September 30, and on October 1

The Times

published the discovery of the planet, soon to be named Neptune. William Lassell, an amateur astronomer from Liverpool who owned the most powerful telescope in England at the time, saw Neptune on October 2, and went on

to discover its largest satellite

(later named Triton) on the tenth. But nowhere did poor Adams's name appear.

Not until October 3 did Adams find a champion, when Sir John Herschel, son of William, published a letter staking a prior claim for Cambridge. Then the affair ignited. The French accused the English of inventing Adams's claim because they were jealous of the Franco-German discovery. The English blamed Airy and Challis for failing to pursue Adams's figures a year before.

Dr Allan Chapman is an historian of science at Wadham College, Oxford.

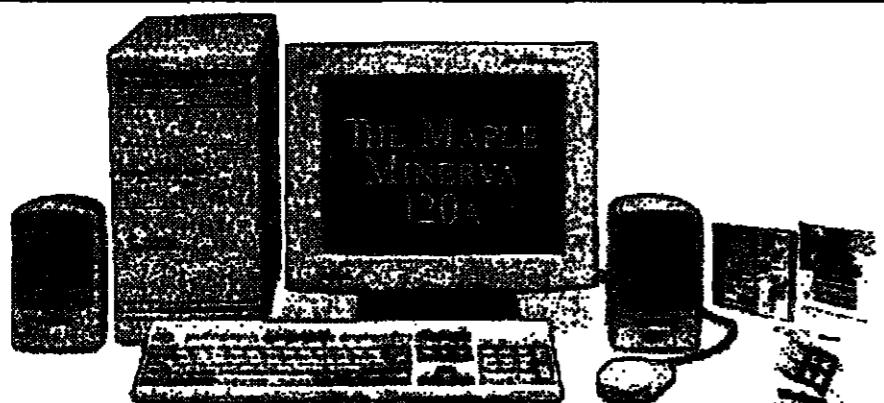
GREEN GIANT

NEPTUNE, the eighth planet in our solar system, is 30 times farther from the Sun than Earth, completing an orbit every 165 years. It weighs as much as 17 Earths, and has a diameter of more than 50,000km.

The first close-up look by Voyager 2 in 1989, showed Neptune as a green disc, the colour stemming from the methane within its atmosphere.

The planet has eight moons. The two biggest, Triton and Nereid, were observed from Earth, and the others were discovered during the Voyager 2 fly-by. The spacecraft also discovered Neptune's rings, four thin belts of material encircling the planet. Two are named after Le Verrier and Adams.

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Sharp practice at the Foreign Office

Dame Pauline Neville-Jones is curious to know how outsiders perceived the end of her 33-year Foreign Office career. Nearly up on the sofa in the sitting room of her small Chelsea house, she poses the question with characteristic understatement and awaits the answer with uncharacteristic nervousness.

The assumption, I tell her, is — to use the argot — that she was stitched up. "Stitched up," she muses, in the general direction of the patio garden. "Hmnnnn." She gives an enigmatic smile and bends her head to examine her pink varnished nails, a gesture which may — or may not — be taken to be a nod. One would expect no less discretion from a woman who, until February this year, was Britain's most senior female diplomat.

The demise of her high-flying career took almost a year to reach its inglorious denouement. At the age of 56, she had for more than two years held the most influential post at the Foreign Office, that of political director. She was effectively ousted by being refused the plum posting many felt her service, intellect and experience merited — Ambassador to Paris. Instead, she was offered Bonn, more than a year hence, by which time the Government might have changed. It was therefore an uncertain prospect. In the meantime her request to be promoted, from a Grade 2 to Grade 1 (the position held by the Ambassadors to Paris, Bonn, Washington and Moscow) was refused.

It was a superlative endgame by the Foreign Office. Dame Pauline, however, was not easy to crack. She is, after all, the woman who led the British delegation at the Bosnia peace talks, served in Rhodesia during the Unilateral Declaration of Independence, in Washington during Watergate, as Deputy Ambassador in Bonn during unification, and, in 1993, just before she was made political director, enjoyed a brief spell of notoriety as the first woman head of the Joint Intelligence Committee. "I have got a pretty high threshold for stress, but dealing with a personal problem is a quite different kind of stress. I was determined not to panic."

John Major made a half-hearted rescue attempt by offering her a job with him.

Dame Pauline Neville-Jones, formerly Britain's top female diplomat, talks for the first time about why she resigned.

Interview by Sandra Parsons

"He very kindly contrived to do something, but it was late on in the game and the job he offered was not as high-powered as it was painted." She turned it down. She was "very pleased" when he then made her a Dame in the New Year's Honours List. Her Foreign Office enemies were not. The next day, the hostile leaks to national newspapers began.

The first an unassuming public version was a report in *The Times* on January 3, Headlined "Undiplomatic", it reported that the most senior woman in the Foreign Office was on the point of leaving. She had turned down the chance to become British Ambassador to Bonn, furious that she had not been offered Paris. Her resignation a month later was covered by almost every newspaper.

Her only previous encounter with the press had been when she was made head of the Joint Intelligence Committee. She was described then as a high-flyer who was "shrewd, quick and vivacious, with a penetrating analytical intelligence".

This time, the largely non-attributable briefings from her colleagues had an altogether more sinister ring.

The trouble, senior diplomats were quoted as saying, was that she was "strong-willed and abrasive". She was clever, yes, but perhaps not a top-drawer brain. Her staff found her intimidating. Her manner was not "sufficiently emollient for the niceties of diplomatic life".

Dame Pauline is a seasoned diplomat and the sort of woman whose professional implacability could, you feel, withstand anything from a troublesome local incident to a full-blown war. But she was unprepared for an assault on the home front and shocked in the way only the straight-

dealing can be shocked when they discover that they are the only one playing by the rules.

"The code is that this is not something you go round talking to the press about, and I was stunned, frankly, by what appeared," she says. "The way I was spoken about was sexist. It is true that I am strong-willed. But when a woman is in favour, she's called formidable. When she is out of favour, she's strong-willed."

"What I felt was they wanted to have their cake and eat it. They wanted all those qualities I had and some others which they thought I lacked. They wanted me ultimately to do what they wanted.

"The story was distorted. I would have liked to go to Paris, but the reality is that it was only part of the picture. I never complained. It was the point about promotion that really gave the cutting edge and which I felt strongly about."

She had suspected for some time that they were out to get her. Only after her appointment to political director did it transpire that the job was not the one she thought she had applied for. It had been reduced in power and scope, so that she had less authority than her counterparts in other foreign ministries. "I thought that was sharp practice. I can't think it was anything other than deliberate, but I don't know why they did it."

For one so intelligent, she is endearingly obdurate about admitting what is clearly the point: the Establishment does not warm to successful women, particularly if they are clever, attractive, and independent. "But I don't want to believe that it was because I was a woman," she says.

Her mother Dr Celia Winn, a retired consultant anaesthetist, has no such qualms. "If you hit a glass ceiling, maybe you just have to move," she said at the time.

Part of the problem was that although her career took her into the heart of the Establishment, Dame Pauline was never really part of it. Her mother, father (who was killed in the Second World War, in North Africa, when she was two) and stepfather were all doctors. She grew up in Leeds and won a scholarship to Oxford, where she read history. Afterwards she wanted to go into industry, but when several big companies told her all she could

expect was a nice career in personnel, she chose the Foreign Office, even though it then required women to resign upon marriage.

Although that rule was changed in 1972, when she was 33, Dame Pauline has never married. One might conclude that she has been betrayed by the career to which she gave the best years of her life but today, with a new job at NatWest that earns her almost three times more than her £70,000 Foreign Office salary, she is adamant that she sacrificed nothing.

"I chose the Foreign Office and I don't regret it. On the question of my not marrying, it's very hard to say how much is me and how much of it my job. I think in the end it's probably me. I was proposed to once but I just knew it wasn't right, so I wasn't emotionally cut up. That would be one of the things that would scare me most, to marry out of panic."

I can't think it was anything other than deliberate'

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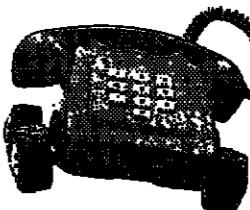
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Starting today, the remarkable diaries of George Urban, one of Margaret Thatcher's



Day of dissent: those present at the secret seminar on Germany at Chequers, when Margaret Thatcher gave warning that it might not be long before the "unreliable" Germans would turn their economic might into political power

I was amazed ... her views weren't that different from Alf Garnett

George Urban, the former Director-General of Radio Free Europe, which was established to broadcast to countries behind the Iron Curtain, was invited to join Margaret Thatcher's private band of policy advisers in 1981. She consulted him on foreign policy, speeches and diplomatic initiatives for more than a decade, during which he kept a detailed

DIPLOMACY AND DISILLUSION

diary. For the first time, he reveals how his admiration for her turned to disillusionment.

January 25, 1981

Yesterday's working lunch with Margaret Thatcher at Chequers was my first personal contact with the Prime Minister. My first impres-

sions: she is much softer and more feminine than I gathered from her appearances on television — a man's woman in slow decline. Even her voice struck me as low-key and inoffensive. She was friendly without being overwhelming, courteous, and inquisitive only within the limits of a warming-up session. In other words:

a model hostess. I took to her instantly.

I left feeling that this highly intelligent, well-informed and resolute lady would make mincemeat of the American leadership. What a pleasure to see a person of ideas in charge of declining Britain!

September 18-19, 1983

MT also impressed me as a lady of considerable learning. She is up to date on the latest

literature on political theory, military, economic and social affairs. The PM even threw a quotation at me from *Antigone* — and she was excusing herself that she could no longer remember it in Greek.

My impression is that some of her increasingly numerous contacts with intellectuals have more than a practical purpose: she may be working on her image in history as a great stateswoman surrounded and respected by the leading brains of her time.

October 19, 1984

"How do you see the situation in Germany?" she asked.

"Behind the backs of the Soviets, German unification is in fact quietly happening apace through a fast-growing number of economic ties, personal contacts and, of course, through the exceptional status German Democratic Republic exports enjoy on the markets of the EEC. We can already talk of a latent form of German unification."

"What's so latent about it?" the PM asked. "We have known all about it for a long time, and we'd better be on our guard." This, and her tone, surprised me. I had expected that drawing East Germany into the Western orbit by stealth, as it were, would meet with her approval.

To balance her suspicions, I then told the PM that the German people were especially impressed by her record. They liked a clear-headed leader. They admired the way in which she dealt with the unions, her resolve to restore British sovereignty in the Falklands, and, in the last week, her unflappability after the Brighton bombing.

I could still sense animus. I mentioned the centrality of Germany to all our concerns and the great financial contribution the Germans have made to European unification. This did not go down well, either. "They have been simply paying reparations for all the things they did during the war."

She said later: "You know I never believed that German nationalism was dead. Nor did I believe that it would be dormant for a long time. I always thought that when the next German generation were old enough to think and lead the country, the drive to reunite Germany would be there again. But we don't want that because there is no question that if the Germans were reunited they would, once again, dominate the whole of Europe." I found the strength of her views on Europe and Germany disturbing.

of the House and Deputy Prime Minister.

She then launched into German reunification. Here I found an unexpected ally in David Willets (CPS Director of Studies). David said he thought unification would be a good thing: true, it had to be done circumspectly, but it was, in any case, unstoppable: at

divided country, still controlled by the postwar arrangements. She came back to the point again and again that we had, in the four-power Berlin Agreement, a perfectly valid international instrument. This could, in her interpretation, be used by the four victorious powers to retain certain rights, and these could

man) and I tried to put in a corrective: "My impression has been," Hugh said, "that Nato and our defences have been created because we were threatened by the Soviet Union. Have we switched enemies?"

"As soon as the Germans

have fully recovered, they will

reassert their hegemonic inter-

ests throughout Eastern

Europe," she went on. I was

distressed and so, I noticed,

was Thomas.

The PM observed: "With the Central European countries reasserting their independence and all the ancient feuds and territorial disputes resur-

face, we may be going back to the state of affairs preceding the First World War."

I find the PM's sentiments narrow-gauged in the extreme. No sooner did Soviet power hit the rocks than she and her friends returned to the scenes of old mischiefs. They are in search of a new enemy.

But I will now record something I would have said to the PM very privately had there been an opportunity. The plain truth is that Margaret Thatcher is in many respects too good for Britain. She is cut out to be the leader of a nation with the thrif and work ethic of Japan, Germany, Switzerland, Taiwan, perhaps even the US, where her vision, resolve and free-market enthusiasm would produce lasting results.



Urban, far right, at a reception held by Mrs Thatcher

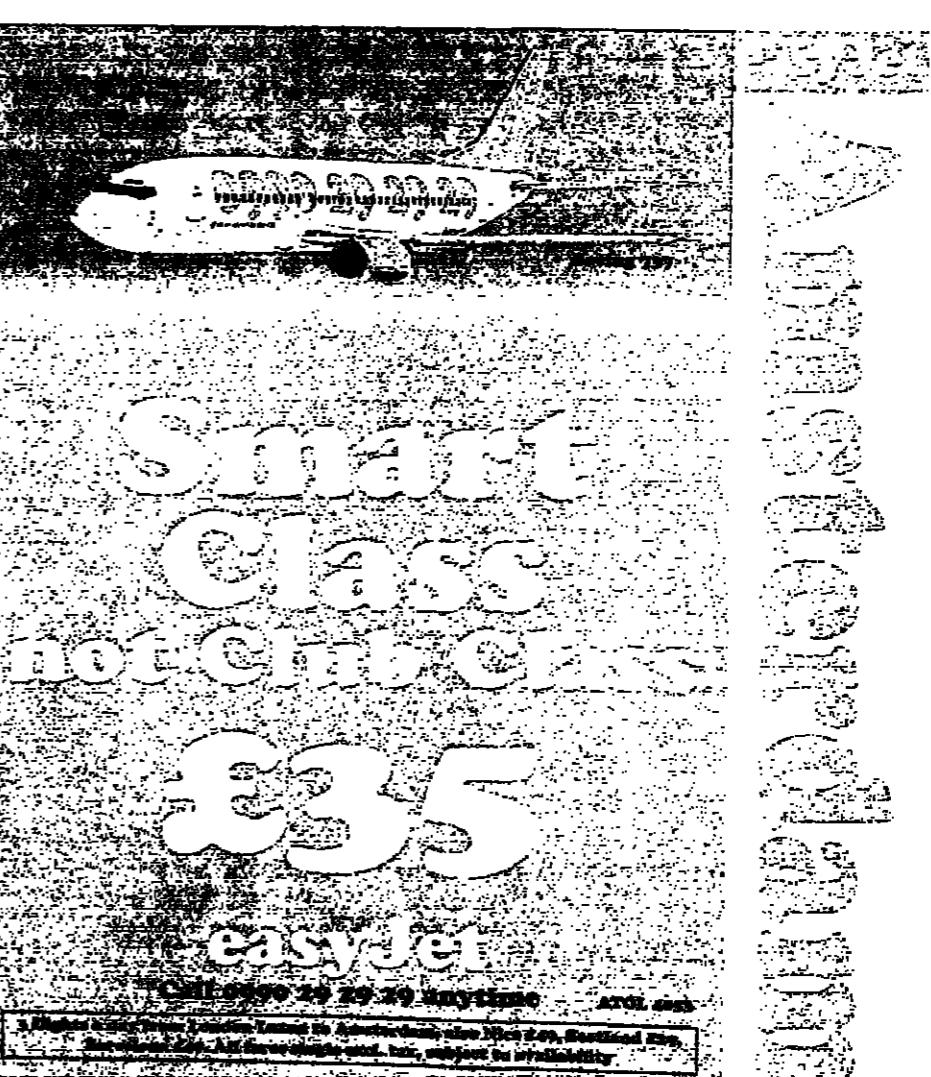
which the PM threw up her hands in horror: "No, not at all." It was clear that she was hostile to the whole idea on the ground of a rather old-fashioned nationalism. I was amazed to hear her uttering views about people and countries, especially Germany, which were not all that different from Alf Garnett

version of history. The PM is extremely reluctant to see Germany assume a role other than that of a

be enforced in an emergency. I found this preposterous and a prescription for disaster.

"You know, George," the PM said, coming close to me, "there are things that people of your generation and mine ought never to forget. We've been through the war and we know perfectly well what the Germans are like, and what dictators can do, and how national character doesn't basically change ... and so on."

Hugh Thomas (CPS chair-



close advisers. Part One: the Prime Minister's growing anxiety over German unification

Germany: how we were misrepresented by the Downing Street memo

March 25, 1990

An all-day seminar yesterday on Germany, at Chequers, at the invitation of the Prime Minister.

Those present were Margaret Thatcher and Douglas Hurd, Foreign Secretary; from the United States, two distinguished historians: Gordon Craig and Fritz Stern; on our side Lord Dacre of Glanton (Hugh Trevor-Roper), Timothy Garton Ash and Norman Stone from Oxford, and myself. The Prime Minister was assisted by Charles Powell, her foreign policy adviser and factotum at No 10.

MT took the chair and opened the discussion. We would, she said, first talk about the historical background of Germany and the reliability of Germany as a future partner in Europe; to what extent was Germany, through its economic might, likely to become a politically over-powerful and perhaps even aggressive factor? And she made no secret of her conviction that Germany was historically a dangerous power, not only because of the First and Second World Wars, but because of the sheer size of her population, the diligence and discipline of her people, the unreliability (as she called it) of the German character, the likelihood of Germany embracing another "mission" in Europe and so on. In other words, it was fairly obvious from the moment she began speaking that her gut reactions were anti-German.

But the PM did not range us. She appeared to be genuinely anxious to find out what all these "distinguished" observers and historians had to tell her. My impression is that she rather expected our group to endorse her anti-Teutonic preconceptions, and that she probably invited the two Americans with that idea especially in mind.

MT could have been in no doubt about the attitudes of Trevor-Roper, Stone and myself — three out of six, I should imagine she assumed that the Americans and perhaps Garton Ash would take a more sceptical view. Not so.

There was surprise in the air when, starting with Gordon Craig, followed by Trevor-Roper and then Fritz Stern, we all came up with analyses I would roughly summarise like this: while the "German mind" (if there is such a thing) is spiritually and intellectually

FACE TO FACE AT CHEQUERS

not always easy to fathom, the Federal Republic has given a splendid account of its ability to run not only a democratic system, but a liberal democratic system at that, with a strong element of social responsibility and institutional guarantees built into it. These could not be easily circumvented by a future extremist party or a dictator.

Our general conclusion was that, while a certain amount of caution is always very much in order in politics, this is a Germany "worthy" of British trust (I found the condescending tone quite intolerable).

Listening to us, the PM remained diplomatic but unconvinced, firing questions at us to express her deep doubts. We answered with courtesy and in impeccably scholarly terms. Procedurally, of course, we all deferred to her because she was in the chair, she was the Prime Minister, and our hostess. We didn't interrupt her interjections, which were many, although she frequently cut into our words — but that again is a Prime Minister's privilege.

There were no rows or even "words". But stage by stage, it emerged clearly enough that, collectively, we had very different views from those she was entertaining and especially those she had, damagingly enough, put on the record since the fall of the Berlin Wall.

It was fairly obvious that, in his bones, the Foreign Secretary was on our side of the argument.

Before lunch, I said to him, standing some distance away from the rest of the group: "Well, it seems we are going to have quite a bit of an argument because some of our views on Germany are clearly not in line with those of the Prime Minister." Hurd answered rather quietly: "Don't let that worry you. We have already worked on her and she is changing. Speak your mind absolutely freely.

She had become a lady of overweening self-confidence and self-importance, particularly, I should imagine, in her dealings with her inferiors in the bureaucracy and her colleagues in the Cabinet; and there are signs that this is being increasingly resented. How long will it be before opposition within the party erupts (it is already there) and threatens her leadership?

As we were walking out to

TOMORROW

Margaret Thatcher: Why I am not a conservative

THE TIMES

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get into our cars, Stone, Garton Ash and I huddled together. It was remarkable, we said, that our consensus should have developed quite independently. We were not in any way close friends — yet we all came to the same sort of conclusion: the PM's "instincts" were extremely wide of the mark. Craig and Stern said they were thrilled by the invitation. No American President since Kennedy would have had either the intellectual curiosity to enlist the views of scholars, or the ability to debate with them as an equal. They were too right. MT is a great lady even when she is dead wrong.

On July 15, 1990, almost four months after our meeting, the *Independent on Sunday* published Powell's "confidential memorandum" on our discussion. It was an astounding document — not so much for what it actually reported (though what it did was in many places inaccurate enough), but for its unashamedly anti-German flavour.

Throughout these exchanges, it became more and more obvious that MT's status in her own eyes as the repository of truth and rectitude had grown enormously since her first meetings with her in 1981 and 1982. She had become a lady of overweening self-confidence and self-importance, particularly, I should imagine, in her dealings with her inferiors in the bureaucracy and her colleagues in the Cabinet; and there are signs that this is being increasingly resented. How long will it be before opposition within the party erupts (it is already there) and threatens her leadership?

July 20, 1990

Charles Powell's version of what was said and concluded at Chequers is very much at odds with what actually happened. I was extremely upset. So, as I soon discovered, were the other British participants.

Three years later, in October 1993, in Berlin, Lord Dacre

asked me: "Have you done anything about the way we have been misrepresented in Charles Powell's memorandum? I haven't, but we should. I'm deeply embarrassed when German friends ask me: 'Do you really hold those views?'"

• Diplomacy and Disillusion at the Court of Margaret Thatcher, by George Urban, is published tomorrow by I.B. Tauris. To order a copy through The Times Bookshop telephone 0245 669916. Discount price £18.95, inc. postage.



Thatcher the patriot: she became a lady of overweening self-importance, says Urban

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IN THE SHOPS: Now
REVIEW: Thursday



■ FILM

Franco Zeffirelli remakes *Jane Eyre* with Charlotte Gainsbourg and William Hurt
OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday



■ POP

Hot from the country: Mary Chapin Carpenter and Lyle Lovett play Wembley
C1G: Friday
REVIEW: Monday



■ MUSIC

At the Festival Hall Andrew Davis leads the BBC Symphony Orchestra in a tribute to Radio 3
CONCERT: Sunday
REVIEW: Next week

ARTS
TUESDAY TO
FRIDAY
IN SECTION 2

Visual treats enliven the long journey

THEATRE: Robert Lepage's Hiroshima marathon arrives at the National; plus, George Eliot adapted for the stage in Wales

At this year's Edinburgh Festival, Robert Lepage's *Elsinore* turned out to be as short as a play could be, for technical gremlins prevented it opening at all. That is far from the problem with his *Seven Streams*. In the two years since it first hit Edinburgh it has doubled its three-and-a-half-hour length and split into two. Whether you see these halves on consecutive nights, or from 2.45 to 10.30 on the next two Saturdays and Sundays, they will leave you boggling at the Canadian auteur's maddening mix of unimaginative daring, longwindedness, dramatic tension, dramatic laxity, cultural curiosity, humour and pain.

There are two episodes which show him and Quebec's Ex Machina company at their best, one in the first half, the other at the start of the less satisfactory second. Patrick Goeyette's Jeffrey, who has AIDS, gets himself Dutch citizenship and, along with the passport, a Dutch doctor's help in putting him out of his misery. The scene in which he and those who care for him sit quietly, gravely waiting while the medical efficiency organises her needles and drip-feeds is as distressingly real and morally unsettling as anything I've seen this decade.

Here, an understated naturalism rules. The other scene, which involves a Czech-Jewish woman's memories of a death camp, demands and gets a fiercer approach. Angry mirrors appear, throwing multiple reflections towards the back of the stage. What seem to be scores of men and women in 1940s hats and overcoats run past.

ADAPTED for the small screen, *Middlemarch* went down a storm. Shared Experience took one's breath away with its theatrical vision of *Mill on the Floss*. Theatre Clwyd's *Silas Marner* is an extremely poor cousin to that bewitchingly inventive production.

George Eliot's moral novel about love and money, where a miserly weaver is born again when blessed with an orphan-child to cherish, is itself pretty heavy-handed. The wicked come to sticky ends. Good folks are rewarded if they wait long enough.

Tim Baker's supposedly creative staging of *Silas*,

Stars of David appear on their lapsels. Their pace gets faster, more hectic and then, just as suddenly, we are in a prison dormitory and launched into a tale that owes something to Fania Fenlon's *Playing for Time*, something to *Madam Butterfly*, and plenty to Lepage's own creative vitality.

The 1994 version of the play included that scene but did not visit Holland or touch on the subject of euthanasia. Lengthening has brought new characters and sweeping changes. But if we see a lot less of Ghislaine Vincent's Czech, we see more of what can literally and metaphorically be called the fallout of the last war. The balance has tilted away from Jana and the Holocaust and towards the impact of Hiroshima.

Lepage has set much of the play there. Indeed, he starts in 1945, with a scene in which an American military cameraman has an affair with a slowly dying Hiroshima woman. Then it's off to the 1960s New York lodging house in which his legitimate American and illegitimate Japanese son — Norman Deneau's withdrawn Jeffrey Yamashita — as well as Goeyette's feisty Jeffrey O'Connor — live side by side without knowing it. As the action continues through the 1980s to 1997, there are reconciliations, partings, spiritual changes, and several deaths. But do we end up believing the voice that says at the beginning that Hiroshima is a place of enlightenment and rebirth as well as destruction? Not as fully as Lepage must hope.

Some scenes, especially the first, need trimming. Some characters, notably striking effects on the long, low strip of stage where his saga unfolds,



Marie Gignac in Lepage's epic play about the aftermath of Hiroshima

by a Canadian diplomat and his brash wife, do not wholly earn their keep, and some incidents, starting with a performance of Feydeau's *Lady from Maxims* seen from the back of an Osaka stage, seem questionably relevant. Yet you never doubt Lepage's ear for a tense, loaded line, still less his eye for a startling image.

Again and again he achieves brilliant, striking effects on the long, low strip of stage where his saga unfolds;

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

and never more so than when he evokes the mess and grot of tenement Manhattan by concentrating the action in three doll's-house rooms, principally a run-down bathroom where the world comes to wash, excrete, exchange party talk, develop photos and rehearse beat poetry late at night. What director but Lepage could have concocted so wonderfully quirky a scene? None.

INCRIMINAL SQUIREEN AND COMEDY YOKELS. Johnson Willes' Silas does little but wail, scuttle and stare.

The set hardly makes the village more real. The arches of Silas's cottage, lit in peppermint green, are draped with peach veils. To help us to identify different dwellings, the villagers lug some sort of prehistoric park bench on and off a plinth.

Curiously fine, though, are the unaccompanied mournful singing (composer Peter Knight), the spirited Christmas carolling and the final celebratory clog stomp.

KATE BASSETT

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BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Limp as an orphaned rag

Silas Marner
Theatre Clwyd

a sorry length of fabric. Hanging limply from an actress's hand, Epiphie the Cloth does not crawl or toddle. She trails in. "Praps," suggests our optimistic rustic narrator, appraising this crucial moment, "twere a miracle." Not for me, twerent.

Ah. A ventriloquising

Nicola Reynolds whimpers and gurgles very cleverly,

exactly like a teeny sprog, and is also a sweet and sincere older Epiphie. Stephanie Dabbs's Dolly manages to be decently rounded, and Jules Davison's Nancy, wedded to Epiphie's aristocratic natural father, grows disturbingly inconsistent, offering Epiphie a wealthy life at the Hall because her own marriage has proved barren, concealing need behind a charitable gesture.

However, the menfolk of Raveloe are crude cartoons, switching between the dash-

ing criminal squireen and comedy yokels. Johnson Willes' Silas does little but wail, scuttle and stare.

The set hardly makes the

village more real. The arches of Silas's cottage, lit in peppermint green, are draped with peach veils. To help us to

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Curiously fine, though, are the unaccompanied mournful singing (composer Peter Knight), the spirited Christmas carolling and the final celebratory clog stomp.

KATE BASSETT

Sketchily adapted by Greg Cullen, copies ideas from elsewhere, awkwardly. The cast has a crack at pretending to gallop on horseback. Silas's well-meaning neighbour Dolly mimes cuddling her darling infant boy who, going by his dimensions, may well be an imaginary cardboard box.

Then, of course, the orphan-baby Epiphie must arrive at Silas's door. Eliot's golden-curled cherub, replacing Silas's stolen coins with untainted human love, is his ray of hope. Our Epiphie, though, is sketchily adapted by Greg Cullen, copies ideas from elsewhere, awkwardly. The cast has a crack at pretending to gallop on horseback. Silas's well-meaning neighbour Dolly mimes cuddling her darling infant boy who, going by his dimensions, may well be an imaginary cardboard box.

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THATCHER'S GERMANS

Divided counsel and distorted minutes: an adviser remembers

It requires an effort of imagination to transport ourselves back to the early 1980s, when Margaret Thatcher was first making her mark on the world, when Ronald Reagan was ridiculed for calling the Soviet Union an "evil empire" and Europe was afraid of American missiles and awash with Soviet misinformation. "Know thy enemy" was Mrs Thatcher's first commandment, and few had a shrewder grasp of Soviet and East European politics than George Urban, whose book *Diplomacy and Disillusion at the Court of Margaret Thatcher* is serialised this week in *The Times*.

Mr Urban rose to be head of Radio Free Europe, the American-funded broadcasting station based in Munich, and could fairly be described as a Cold Warrior. A staunch defender of Britain and the West, Mr Urban was greatly impressed by Mrs Thatcher, whom he met through the Centre for Policy Studies, her favourite think-tank. His excellent interviews in *Encounter* magazine had caught her eye, and he became one of the intellectuals whom she invited to help on foreign policy speeches.

But, as his diaries record, Mr Urban soon became aware of an insurmountable barrier between his world view and the Iron Lady's: they disagreed about Germany. His Central European background predisposed him in favour of German culture, and his confidence in the postwar West German political system was robust. She, on the other hand, seemed to him to be fixated by outdated suspicions of the Germans: she thought they wanted first to restore the pre-war status quo by reunification, and then once again to dominate Europe.

In the summer of 1990 Mrs Thatcher reluctantly allowed Nicholas Ridley to resign as Trade Secretary after his outburst

against monetary and political union as a "German racket". George Urban already knew that the Thatcher and Ridley views were virtually identical.

Shortly afterwards came the Chequers seminar on Germany, attended by several eminent historians and commentators on Germany, including Mr Urban. The extract published today gives the first eyewitness account of that historic gathering. Previously observers have had to rely on the notorious leaked memorandum written by the Prime Minister's private secretary, Sir Charles Powell, which suggested that the assembled experts had endorsed the Prime Minister's fear of German expansionism. Far from it, according to Mr Urban: to a man, they opposed her. Not that she took much notice; indeed, her imperviousness to criticism was such that he already foresaw her political demise.

In a second extract, to be published tomorrow, Mr Urban records his impressions of Baroness Thatcher after her fall. He was struck by her rapid disengagement, not only with Europe and the Major Government, but with the Conservative tradition she had championed. Many who read his account will not share his interpretation. Her anxieties about German domination have been in many respects vindicated by Chancellor Kohl's drive for monetary and political union. But as a document, Mr Urban's book is invaluable—essential reading for all who seek to understand the Thatcher era. The lady herself will hardly be flattered by George Urban's account, but his admiration is not entirely extinguished by his disillusion. Even after the Chequers seminar, he remarks: "MT is a great lady even when she is dead wrong." That is not a bad epitaph.

THE POINT OF THE CENTRE

Why Lib Dems need to be in Brighton this week

Does Britain really need the Liberal Democrats? That is the question which many people watching (and not watching) this week's conference will be asking themselves. No longer is the centre party strikingly different from the two main parties. Its policies are almost identical to those of Labour: the Brighton seafront yesterday seemed full of the same types of people who have flocked to join Tony Blair's party in the past two years.

Paddy Ashdown, depending upon his mood and his audience, uses two arguments, incompatible with each other, to justify his party's existence. One is that the Lib Dems would provide a vital moderating influence on a Labour government; the other, that the centre party now has the radical policies that an over-cautious Labour Party does not dare to adopt. Both cannot be true, and neither is entirely convincing.

Most voters do not now believe that, in government, Mr Blair would turn upside down all his pre-election promises and embark upon a left-wing rampage that only the Liberal Democrats could prevent. If, however, Labour had only a tiny majority, a phalanx of Lib Dem MPs could help him to pass legislation that might otherwise be threatened by a rebellion of his hard Left.

As for radical policies, now that Labour agrees, more or less, with the centre party on constitutional reform, there are only two distinctive stances that remain to the Lib Dems. Labour is unlikely to boast too much about wanting to raise income tax or to adopt fervent European federalism. Neither is electorally popular—and even Paddy Ashdown's rich passion for European integration was diluted by his article in *The Times* last week. As a result of being squeezed by the rise of Mr Blair, the Lib Dems are now scoring only around 12 per cent in the polls, compared with the 18 per cent that they won at the last election.

SURGICAL DRESSING

Beware: careless clothes cost lives

When medical observation agrees with hoary folk wisdom, there is a double respect for the conclusion they draw. Many a carefree adventurer has dismissed, with some embarrassment, the musty exhortations of solicitous mothers to ensure that they are wearing clean underwear in case they should meet with an accident. Now this genteel precept has been vindicated by actuarial findings. Those who are scrubbed and smelling of fresh linen, a Bristol University doctor has found, stand a better chance of access to life-saving attention than those who look and smell like an old tramp.

Today's Samaritans are more likely to help a heart attack victim wearing a well-cut suit or a fashionable number with a designer label than one with engine oil on a boiler-suit or who has just been hosing down the stables. It is not only the kiss of life that is more readily planted on the tips of the comatose clothes-horse: nurses hurry the trolley into the theatre and surgeons don their masks in a flash at the sight of a blood-spattered Armani suit. Those with tatty clothes and the aroma of homelessness are sent to the back of the innumerable NHS queue.

Keider machen Leute, say the Germans, and almost every culture has a similar aphorism that "clothes make the man". From earliest days, the squire proclaimed his eminence with gorgeous apparel; and today's taxidriver is more likely to temper his patter: careless clothes cost lives.

squire in his cab looks like a denizen of Pall Mall or Harley Street. The eccentric mistress of the manor, however, may find an unwelcome familiarity in the tradesmen she confronts in her puppy-breeding overall or her dung-spattered wellingtons, and it may require all her imperious manner to remind them of the fine silks and severe suits that hang in her wardrobe.

On the whole, the British are poor at keeping up appearances, and tend to rate the scruff above the suave. The middle classes, however, have a keen sense of their own kind, and doctors, generally a product of middle-class upbringing, are as influenced as any by the subtle signals. Dr Phil Hammond even noted in his Bristol case-book that when a mother, dressed in dirty, baggy trousers, took her child to hospital after a fall, she was subjected to insinuations of child abuse, whereas when she returned with the child on another occasion, dressed to the nines, it was assumed she was caring and responsible.

Of course, the reverse is also true: how many more patients will put their trust in the avuncular GP whose silver hair, weather-beaten face, watch-chain and distinctive brogue makes him for all the world like Dr Finlay or Dr Cameron than in the wild-haired surgeon in jeans and sneakers with the latest research at his fingertips? Doctor and patient should dress to impress: careless clothes cost lives.

McGeorge Bundy

From Mrs Carol Bundy Stogdon

I would dispute Lord Rees-Mogg's contention that my uncle, McGeorge Bundy, must have seen himself as a failure (article, September 19; also obituary, September 18). Temporally he was not inclined to such a view. His ambition was for service not power; this he continued both in heading the Ford Foundation and in his many other commitments.

Uncle Mac was well aware of American society's inherent dislike and distrust of its own elites. Since the Revolution at least one person in nearly every generation of his family has played some public role, often contentious, often onerous, in representing that elite as the nation acquired an ever broader interpretation of democracy. For my own generation, or the next, I expect this task will fall to a female member of the family.

Yours faithfully,
PETRE

(Chairman, Victoria History of the

County of Essex),
Writtle Park House,
Highwood, Nr Chelmsford, Essex.

September 19.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Moral arguments on matters of tax

From Mr M. C. Fitzpatrick

Sir, In the debate between Mr Major and Mr Blair on different approaches to public policy (report and Riddell on Politics, September 19) Mr Major argues that it is morally right for the State to cut spending, thereby reducing taxation and allowing people more choice on how they spend their money. Mr Blair, by contrast, argues that the State has a moral obligation to concentrate on education, unemployment, homelessness and making the streets safer.

Is there not also a moral argument to the effect that the State should raise sufficient revenue to pay for its public finance programme? Over the past 30 years or so successive governments have, habitually and deliberately, spent more than they have received in taxation, with the result that they have piled up huge debts which will be passed down to future generations.

Readers might like to ponder the following figures derived from the Treasury's 1995 Budget Red Book: 1. The total of net government debt currently amounts to around £340 billion, equivalent to about £16,000 per UK household.

2. The interest paid each year to service this debt is a figure approaching the amount spent each year on the NHS.

Doubtless, we shall see various definitions of morality advanced by political parties over the next few months. Will any of these include the concept of not saddling future generations with debts incurred by their parents?

Yours faithfully,
M. C. FITZPATRICK
(Head of Economics),
Chantrey Vellacon
(Chartered Accountants),
Russell Square House,
10-12 Russell Square, WC1.
September 21.

From Mr H. H. Mainprice

Sir, On July 18 the Paymaster General announced in a parliamentary written answer that the Government would not, from that date, repay any VAT overpaid or underclaimed by businesses further back than for a period of three years.

The Government has retained the right to enforce assessments for underpaid VAT for six years or, in certain cases, such as the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, for which I am acting, 23 years.

In the college's case an application for payment of under-reclaimed VAT going back to 1973 was restricted to the last three years, while the VAT due during that period which should have been paid was demanded in full.

How does the Prime Minister equate the morality of retaining money which was paid to it in error and which does not belong to it, with the statement on the moral principles of his Government's taxation regime?

Yours faithfully,
HUGH MAINPRICE,
Mainprice & Co
(Specialist VAT consultants),
80 Ebury Street, SW1.
September 20.

From Mr Barry Sheffield

Sir, The Prime Minister claims a moral duty to reduce taxes.

Does it matter (morally) that the effect of the resulting economies in government spending is felt most by the poor, the unemployed, the disabled and the old?

Yours faithfully,
B. SHEFFIELD,
6 Coventry Road,
Flushing, Falmouth, Cornwall.
September 20.

From Mr Ian Mann

Sir, John Major's claim to want to fight the next election on the moral high ground is welcome, if true.

He should start by taking down the stupid posters decrying Tony Blair and the Labour (or socialist) Party and replace them with explanations of the Tory party's policy—if they have one.

Yours faithfully,
IAN MANN
(Liberal Democrat prospective
parliamentary candidate for
Hampshire North East),
2 Church Road, Fleet, Hampshire.
September 20.

McGeorge Bundy

From Mrs Carol Bundy Stogdon

I would dispute Lord Rees-Mogg's contention that my uncle, McGeorge Bundy, must have seen himself as a failure (article, September 19; also obituary, September 18). Temporally he was not inclined to such a view.

His ambition was for service not power; this he continued both in heading the Ford Foundation and in his many other commitments.

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Yours faithfully,
PETRE

(Chairman, Victoria History of the

County of Essex),
Writtle Park House,
Highwood, Nr Chelmsford, Essex.

September 19.

Extending choice of schooling for all

From the General Secretary of the Independent Schools Joint Council

Sir, In extolling the merits of universal comprehensive education ("Devil take the rejects", September 18) Simon Jenkins makes the assumption that parents don't much care about choosing the schools to which they send their children (see also "Let sink schools go private", Lord Skidelsky, September 20). As evidence he points out that "the number of parents opting for private education has risen only from 5 per cent to 7 per cent since 1965".

An opinion poll conducted by MORI towards the end of August revealed that 49 per cent of parents would send their child to an independent school if they could afford it and 43 per cent would not.

The independent sector demonstrates that not to be up to the standard required by one of the leading academic schools does not make a boy or girl a "reject". Parents realise the good sense of choosing a less academic school if that is appropriate.

There will always be a few whose parents are swans but the advice given by prep school heads is usually headed. That is because in independent schools excellence has many more interpretations than outstanding examination results.

We should be examining ways in which more parents can be given the opportunity to make the kind of choice available only to the very well-off. The expansion of the Assisted Places Scheme to a larger group of schools and to the full age range has been a good start.

Yours faithfully,
ARTHUR HEARNDEN,
General Secretary,
Independent Schools Joint Council,
Grosvenor Gardens House,
35-37 Grosvenor Gardens, SW1.
September 21.

From Professor Emeritus Deepak Lal

Sir, Simon Jenkins rightly asks why, if education is treated as "a consumer good", the State need subsidise this form of consumption". The classical liberal answer was provided by J. S. Mill's *On Liberty*.

If the country contains a sufficient number

of persons qualified to provide education under government auspices, the same persons would be able and willing to give an equally good education on the voluntary principle, under the assurance of remuneration afforded by a law rendering education compulsory, combined with state aid to those unable to defray the expense.

If, as Jenkins asserts, the majority of parents prefer comprehensive schools, demand for them will remain high and they will thrive.

What would not be possible is the social engineering that politicians of all hues have indulged in since the war, and whose major beneficiaries—such as Kenneth Baker's "great reform Act"—have been the bureaucrats in the Department for Education and Employment.

Yours faithfully,

DEEPAK LAL,
2 Erskine Hill, NW1.
September 20.

From Mr George Walden, MP for Buckingham (Conservative)

Sir, Simon Jenkins suggests that Lord Skidelsky does not agree with the arguments I put forward in my recent book. *We Should Know Better*, for a new open sector of independent education. Yet on the back of the book Skidelsky is quoted thus: "A compelling case, lucidly presented... His book should be read by all those who have the good of our country and its children at heart."

Neither Skidelsky nor I wish to go back to the old selective system. My thesis is that so long as Britain, alone in Europe, has a segregated system the state sector is doomed to overall mediocrity. The real "elitists" are those who, from a safe height, condone the schools others are forced to attend.

In my experience, the middle classes patronise comprehensives in words, but not with their presence. It smacks of mere contrariness to claim that they are fine at precisely the moment when Tony Blair is questioning their ethos and achievements: "Quality must not be sacrificed to equality."

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE WALDEN,
House of Commons.
September 18.

in highlighting the need for teachers to have a good grasp of subject knowledge and high expectations of their pupils, and for teacher training to be soundly based on practical methods which are known to work well in the classroom.

We are therefore delighted that the Education Secretary has now extended our remit into the content of teacher training, to build on the structural reforms already in hand.

In tackling this important new responsibility, I can assure your readers that the TTA will not be trammeled by any ideology, as proved time and again by our track record.

Yours faithfully,

ANTHIA MILLETT,
Chief Executive,
Teacher Training Agency,
Portland House, Stag Place, SW1.
September 19.

Teacher training

From the Chief Executive of the Teacher Training Agency

Sir, I was surprised to read your criticism of the Teacher Training Agency (leading article, "Teach how to teach", September 19; see also report of the same date) since the rest of your leader largely echoes some of the views the TTA has expressed in its own publications.

In just 18 months the TTA has revolutionised the funding of initial teacher training, so that account is taken of Ofsted inspection evidence—we are the first body to have done this. It has also started the process of de-accrediting five major teacher-training establishments, also based on Ofsted reports—we are again the first body to have done this.

The TTA has been in the vanguard

if a minimum wage is implemented then these owner-managers can do one of the following: absorb the cost increases themselves—and thus be penalised for their own enterprise; try to pass on the increases to their customers—and risk losing custom and revenues; or employ fewer staff and work longer hours themselves. It is a brutal choice.

We need more real attention paid to the needs, concerns and efforts of those individuals who are actually risking their futures and capital at the sharp end of the enterprise economy.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN C. HOWARTH
(President, South East Hampshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry),
ANDREW KENT
(President, Southampton & Fareham Chamber of Commerce and Industry),
4th Floor, Baltic House, Kingston Crescent, Portsmouth, Hampshire.

September 19.



COURT CIRCULAR

CLARENCE HOUSE
September 21: Mr Michael Gordon-Lennox has succeeded the Lady Margaret Colville as Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

KENSINGTON PALACE
September 21: Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, Queen Margaret College, Edinburgh, today received Professor Donald Leach on relinquishing the appointment of Principal of the College.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
September 21: The Duke of Kent, Patron, the London Philharmonic, this evening attended a benefit concert at Glyndebourne, Lewes, East Sussex.

BALMORAL CASTLE
September 22: Divine Service was held in Crathie Parish Church this morning. The Reverend Andrew Greaves preached the Sermon.

Royal engagement

The Princess Royal, President, Animal Health Trust, will open the new and re-equipped quarry for John Fyle, Dunhill, Lanarkshire, at 10.45.

Luncheon

Nutbourne Manor Vineyard
Mr Peter Gladwin was the host at a pre-harvest luncheon held yesterday at Nutbourne Manor, Pulborough, West Sussex, to mark the opening of the vineyard's new Visitor Centre.

Nature notes

Pied flycatchers heading south are appearing in unexpected places, and last week a number of red-breasted flycatchers were seen, mostly on the east side of Britain. They dart out from a branch to catch insects in the air. Red-breasted flycatchers often fly down to the ground for their prey, and are also unusual in that, unlike most European migrants, they go to India rather than Africa for the winter. Most drake mallards now have shiny bottle-green heads, but some are still moulting, with shabby grey-green heads. Moulting Canada geese leave large feathers among their droppings on

Birthdays today

Mr Gerald Balding, racehorse trainer, 60; Mr Malcolm Bates, chairman, Pearl Group, 62; Mr Ray Charles, singer, 66; Baroness David, 83; the Duke of Fife, 67; Mr J.E.A.R. Guinness, former deputy chairman, Provident Mutual Life Assurance Association, 72; Mr Richard Lambert, Editor, *Financial Times*, 52; Dr B.B. Lloyd, former chairman, Health Education Council, 76; Mr Charles Lloyd, former Headmaster, Dulwich College, 81; Mrs Genista McIntosh, executive director, Royal National Theatre, 50; Mr Mickey Rooney, actor, 76; Mr Bruce Springsteen, rock singer, 47; Admiral Sir John Treacher, 72; Mr John Wilkinson, MP, 56.

Memorial service

Ms Helen Chadwick
A service to celebrate the life and work of Ms Helen Chadwick, artist, was held on Saturday at the Church of St Martin-in-the-Fields. The Rev Bernhard Schümemann officiated. Ms Marina Warner, Mr Mark Haworth-Booth, Curator of Photography, Victoria and Albert Museum, Dr Rachel Armstrong, Ms Louise Clark and Ms Jo Loko paid tribute.

Service dinner

Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment
Brigadier R.G. Silk, Colonel of The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, presided at the regimental dinner held on Saturday at Wadham College, Oxford.



HRH Crown Princess Margarita of Romania and Mr Radu Duda after their wedding on Saturday in St Gherasim's church, Lausanne, the tiny Greek Orthodox church where the Princess was christened. Crowds of Romanians made a personal pilgrimage to celebrate the occasion along with the Queen of Spain and other members of Europe's royal families (Jessica Douglas-Home writes).

The bride was given away by her father, former King Michael of Romania, who is in exile in Switzerland. He returned to his country during Easter 1992 to a crowd of an estimated one million — his first visit since the communists forced him out at gunpoint in December 1947. Since that tumultuous reception (when

the King was accompanied by his wife Queen Anne, daughter Princess Helen and grandson Prince Nicholas), President Iliescu has prevented the King from returning to Romania. Princess Margarita and her husband, a lecturer at the Academy of Theatre and Film in Bucharest, will live half the year in Romania and the other half in Switzerland.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Augustus, Roman Emperor 27BC-AD14, Rome, 63BC; Jeremy Collier, writer, Stow Quay, Cambridgeshire, 1650; Baroness Emmuska Orczy, novelist, Tora-Oros, Hungary, 1865; Walter Pidgeon, film actor, East St John, Canada, 1897; Paul Delvaux, Surrealist painter, Belgium, 1896; Aldo Moro, five times Prime Minister of Italy, Maglie, Lecce, 1916.

DEATHS: Robert Dodseley, poet and dramatist, Durham, 1764; Richard Bonington, landscape painter, London, 1828; Prosper Mérimée, novelist, Cannes, 1870; Urbain Le Verrier, astronomer, Paris, 1877; Wilkie Collins, novelist, London, 1889; Eliza Cook, poet, Wimbledon, 1889; John Morley, Viscount Morley of Blackburn, statesman and writer, London, 1923; Sigmund Freud, psychoanalyst, London, 1939; Pablo Neruda, poet, Nobel laureate 1971, Santiago, 1973.

The astronomer Johan Galle discovered Neptune, 1846. The George Cross was instituted for civilian acts of courage, 1940. Juan Perón was re-elected President of Argentina, 1973. The world's first Ceefax teletext service began on BBC Television, 1974.

riverbanks and in parks. A tinge of brown is touching many trees. There are ochreous patches on the limes, and here and there a birch tree is completely yellow. The small pink flowers of herb-robert linger in the woods among nettles and brambles. Bracken is turning golden-brown and collapsing. The first acorns are dropping from the oaks; they crash noisily through the leaves. Hazelnuts are ripening and wood mice nibble round holes in them to get at the kernel. On western and northern moors, red deer stags are roaring and fighting as they round up their harems. Pied flycatchers

are dropping from the trees; they crash noisily through the leaves. Hazelnuts are ripening and wood mice nibble round holes in them to get at the kernel. On western and northern moors, red deer stags are roaring and fighting as they round up their harems.

The National Vegetable Society staged 235 cultivars of potato, grown by gardeners across the country. There was

RHS Malvern Autumn Show

BY ALAN TOOGOOD, HORTICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

A DISPLAY of vegetables comparable to autumnal flowers and foliage in terms of colour scooped the top award at the Royal Horticultural Society's flower show staged with the Malvern Autumn Show in Hereford & Worcester over the weekend.

The winning display, judged best in show and also awarded a gold medal, was staged by seedsmen W Robinson, of Forton, Lancashire, and included climbing French beans with colourful pods, such as the yellow "Kingston Gold".

A gold medal was also awarded to seedsmen Thompson & Morgan who exhibited a collection of vegetables grown by Arthur Davies, of Talgarth, Powys, including the sweetest tomato available, "Sungold"; a yellow plum-type. Mr Davies has staged 87 gold medal exhibits of vegetables over 27 years.

Cultivars of *Acer palmatum* (Japanese maples) provides some of the most brilliant autumn leaf colour. Hippopotamus Nursery, of East Lound, Doncaster, which

even a contribution from Australia; a potato unknown in Britain called "Sebago". The collection ranged from rare historical kinds such as "Lumpus" (1804) to modern potatoes including "Kestrel" and "Estima".

A collection of Michaelmas daisies (*Aster novi-belgii* cultivars), shown by the Pictor Garden and Old Court Nurseries of Colwall, Hereford & Worcester, was among the exhibits which truly reflected the season. The nursery, where Ernest Ballard, the well-known breeder of Michaelmas Daisies, did his hybridising, is celebrating its 90th anniversary. It was appropriate, therefore, that Ballard cultivars, such as "Mary Ballard" (double blue), "Patricia Ballard" (red) and "Patricia Ballard" (red), were awarded a gold medal.

A collection of trees and shrubs for autumn colour was shown by Bluebell Nursery, of Blackfoddy, Derbyshire, including deciduous hollies (cultivars of *Ilex verticillata*) from North America, whose heavy crops of bright red or orange-red berries last well into winter.

Drifts of hardy cyclamen, such as *C. hederifolium* and *C. purpurascens*, were displayed by Ashwood Nurseries of Kingswinford, West Midlands, just as they are found in the wild — among pine trees.

This imaginative exhibit was awarded a gold medal.

A collection of trees and shrubs for autumn colour was shown by Bluebell Nursery, of Blackfoddy, Derbyshire, including deciduous hollies (cultivars of *Ilex verticillata*) from North America, whose heavy crops of bright red or orange-red berries last well into winter.

Out of 63 exhibitors, 26 were awarded gold medals for displays ranging from carnations and sweet peas to cacti and succulents, thus denoting the very high standard of this second annual show.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A. Cannon-Brookes and Miss P. Saminathan
The engagement is announced between Andrew, elder son of Mr and Mrs Christopher Cannon-Brookes, of York, and Philomena, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Saminathan, of Singapore.

Mr R.J. Eldridge and Miss G.R. Peake
The engagement is announced between Roger, elder son of the late Mr C.W. Eldridge and of Mrs E.M. Eldridge, of Weston-super-Mare, and Gilli, daughter of Brigadier and Mrs A.P. Peake, of Hampstead Norreys, Berkshire.

Mr G.A. Grimm and Miss C.M.J. Brooke-Little
The engagement is announced between Clinton, son of the late Mr and Mrs Günter Grimm, of Potsdam, Germany, and Clare, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Brooke-Little, of Heyford House, Lower Heyford, Oxford, OX6 3NZ.

Mr D.M. Kemsley and Miss C.B. Bannan
The engagement is announced between David, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Peter Kemsley, of Bramfield, Suffolk, and Clare, daughter of the late Mr John Bannon and of Mrs Maureen Bannon, of Bitterne, Southampton.

Mr M.W. Rowe and Miss I.J. Matthews
The engagement is announced between Martin, elder son of the late Mr Philip Rowe and of Mrs Valerie Rowe, of Wellington, Somerset, and Jenny, younger daughter of Dr and Mrs James Matthews, of Oxford.

Mr S.M. Freedman and Miss T. Barnett
The marriage took place on Saturday, September 21, at St Andrew's Church, Linton Road, Oxford, of Mr Jonathan Freedman, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Michael Freedman, of Colchester, to Miss Caroline Talbot Rice, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Nigel Talbot Rice, of Oxford. The Rev Teddy Saunders officiated, assisted by Prebendary David Bewes and the Revd Paul Key.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Ms Laura Mason and Mr Hugh M. Robertson was best man.

A reception was held at the Hampshire House, Boston, and the honeymoon will be spent in the British Virgin Islands and the Berkshires in Western Massachusetts.

Mr J.M.A. Bewes and Miss C.E. Talbot Rice
The marriage took place on Saturday, September 21, at St Andrew's Church, Linton Road, Oxford, of Mr Jonathan Bewes, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Michael Bewes, of Colchester, to Miss Caroline Talbot Rice, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Nigel Talbot Rice, of Oxford. The Revd Teddy Saunders officiated, assisted by Prebendary David Bewes and the Revd Paul Key.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Ms Rebecca Talbot Rice, Miss Helena Talbot Rice, Miss Rebecca Bewes, Miss Ursula May-Harting, Miss Katherine Awadalla, Emily Parry, Clarissa Martyn-Hempill, Michael Phillips and William Nicholl. Mr Anthony Bewes was best man.

The reception was held at Summer Fields and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

Mr S.M. Freedman and Miss T. Barnett
The marriage took place on Saturday, September 21, at the Lythe Hill, Haslemere, Surrey, between Simon Michael, son of Mr and Mrs Leslie Freedman, of Oakwood, London, and Trudi, daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Barnett, of Guildford, Surrey.

Mr G.A.G. Sheppard and Mrs R.A. Sperry-Jones
The marriage took place on Saturday, September 21, 1996, in Guildford, of Geoffrey Sheppard and Rosemary Sperry-Jones.

Richard John Gildroy Shaw, of London W8, left estate valued at £4,794,583 net.

He left his estate mostly to relatives and £1,000,000 to the Royal Marsden Cancer Research Fund. His wife, Margaretine Thomas, £50,000 to his assistant Lisa Quinlan.

Patrick Ernest William Harris, of Southsea, Hampshire, left estate valued at £1,072,654 net.

He left his estate to his son and chain to be used by the Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth: "I would like to see the Portsmouth City Council museum to be named the Harris Collection".

£1,000,000 to the Royal British Legion, the British Army's Royal Star and Garter Home, the Royal Star and Garter Hospital, the Royal Hospital for the Blind, the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, the trustees of the Portsmouth Roman Catholic Diocese.

Robert John Stearnett, of Great Bromley, Colchester, left estate valued at £930,431 net.

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OBITUARIES

MAJOR-GENERAL PAT TURPIN

Major-General Patrick Turpin, CB, OBE, Director of Supplies and Transport, 1960-63, and Director of Movements (Army), Ministry of Defence, 1963-66, died on September 14 aged 85. He was born on April 27, 1911.

PAT TURPIN, who joined the Royal Army Service Corps in 1933, was the outstanding army logistician of his generation. Supremely able in command and on the staff, had he been born a decade or so later there is little doubt that he would have reached the Army Board as a leading policymaker. But prejudice against officers of the logistic services created at that time an unspoken but uncrossable barrier to their advancement on the staff to three and four star rank. Turpin nearly made it and would have done so in today's Army in which talent is more important than cap badge.

Turpin's career as a supply and transport specialist spanned the revolutions in army transport systems caused by the demise of the horse, by the steadily increasing capacity of land vehicles, by the introduction of airborne supply and by the Army's acquisition of fleet of seagoing logistic ships. His reputation was based upon balanced judgment and unimpeachable reliability.

Patrick George Turpin's father was vicar of Misterton, Somerset. He was educated at Haileybury and went up to Exeter College, Oxford, as a senior classical scholar.

He was an all-round sportsman who represented Oxford at cross-country running, and his college at rugby, tennis and squash. Later he was to win his Army and Corps colours for these sports. But above all he rated his accomplishments as a tennis player. He represented Somerset between 1933 and 1954, winning the county championship in 1948 and holding his Corps' championship in every rank up to his time as a major-general.

It was while playing tennis that a colleague suggested the Army as a career. He took a regular commission



in the Royal Army Service Corps direct from university in 1934 and, after initial training in England, embarked on the troopship *Difwara* for Egypt. There he became adjutant to the 7th Armoured Division's supply column at the outbreak of war when the Division was beginning to deploy in the Western Desert. To his chagrin, he missed its victories over the Italians during O'Connor's Cyrenaica campaign of 1940-41, since he was then a student at the Staff College, Haifa.

He saw no fighting in the Western Desert until after El Alamein because he had been appointed Deputy Assistant Quartermaster General (DAQMG) in HQ British Troops Egypt. After that he had returned to Haifa as an instructor for the whole of 1942. In February 1943 he became an Assistant Quartermaster General (AQMG) to HQ 30th Corps as the 8th Army reached the western Tripolitanian frontier. He was just in time to play his full part in Rommel's decisive defeat at the battle of Medenene, which opened Montgomery's way into Tunisia. The logistic order for the battle, which he signed, is an admirable

example of his clarity of mind: a mere two sheets, specifying the dumping of supplies and ammunition for the three divisions of 30th Corps in their hard-fought defensive battle.

He stayed with 30th Corps for the rest of the Tunisian and all the Sicilian campaigns, gaining a wealth of logistic experience at corps level, including the landings in Sicily. When 30th Corps was withdrawn to England to prepare for Overlord he was appointed AA & QMG (the chief administrative officer) in HQ 5th Division before it landed in Italy. He took part in Montgomery's bloody unsuccessful battles on the Sangro in the autumn of 1943, and subsequently in the equally hard-fought battles of the Anzio beachhead in the winter of 1944.

After Anzio, 5th Division was withdrawn to rest in Egypt. Having had seven years' unbroken overseas service, Turpin was recalled to become chief instructor of the RASC Officers' Training Centre in September 1944. In April 1945, he was promoted brigadier at the early age of 34 to take over as Brigadier A/Q (Chief Administrative Officer) in HQ 1st Corps for the crossing of the Rhine, and the final advance to the Baltic coast. For the first nine months of the subsequent occupation of Germany, he was Brigadier A in HQ 21st Army Group. He had been appointed OBE and twice mentioned in despatches for his wartime services.

In 1948 he achieved the first of his "firsts" for a Logistics Service officer, when he was selected for the Joint Services Staff College (JSSC). Such was the uniqueness of his war experience that after a short spell in the War Office and in HQ British Troops Egypt where he was the logistic planner, he returned to the JSSC as an instructor in 1950.

He achieved his second "first" in 1955 when he was selected for the Imperial Defence College, which grooms officers for high-level Whitehall appointments. He was clearly on his way to becoming the professional head of his Corps, and perhaps higher. The last two stepping stones to Director of

Supplies and Transport were Deputy Adjutant General in HQ BAOR, 1956-59, and then Brigadier Administration of 17th Gurkha Division in Malaya at the end of the anti-terrorist campaign, 1959-60, when he supervised the formation of the Gurkha transport units to replace British units, which could not be manned after the end of National Service.

Taking over as DST in mid-1960, he was promoted major-general. His principal task was the phasing out of RASC National Servicemen and the reorganisation of his Corps on an all-regular basis. He was appointed CB for his services in 1962.

At the end of his three-year tenure as DST, he achieved his third "first". He was selected as the Director of Movements, a major policy-making directorate, which had always previously been headed by an "Arms" officer. During his tenure, he played a key role in bringing together all the Army's disparate movement agencies into the new Royal Corps of Transport (RCT).

He could not achieve a fourth "first" by becoming the first logistic service officer to become a lieutenant-general because he was not operationally qualified to be placed on the selection list for an army command. The prejudice against logistic officers' promotion was not even questioned until the mid-1970s.

After he retired in September 1966,

Turpin became Colonel Commandant RCT, 1965-71, and the first Colonel of the Gurkha Army Service Corps (later renamed Gurkha Transport Regiment, RCT), 1960-73. At last, he had time for his favourite hobby of gardening and he specialised in the development of heathers. He was chairman of the Heather Society for 15 years and the heather *Pat Turpin* was named after him. He also wrote *The Turn of the Wheel: a history of the RASC, 1919-39*.

He married Cherry, daughter of Major K. S. Grove of the York and Lancasters, in 1947. They had a son and a daughter. His family survive him.

JULIUS SILVERMAN

Julius Silverman, former Birmingham Labour MP and barrister, died on September 21 aged 90. He was born on December 8, 1905.

A STAUNCH left-winger, who sat in the House of Commons continuously for 38 years, Julius Silverman was always one of the more anonymous Labour MPs. In his earlier years at Westminster his fame was consistently overshadowed by that of his namesake, Sydney Silverman, who shared most of his convictions but maintained (particularly over the long drawn-out campaign against capital punishment) a much higher profile.

For his part, Julius Silverman was content to be a spear-carrier in various left-wing organisations, starting with the Keep Left Group in the 1940s, going on through the Bevanites and Victory for Socialism in the 1950s to the somewhat more placid waters of the Tribune Group in the 1960s and 1970s.

Born of a Jewish family in Leeds, Julius Silverman — after education at Leeds Central High School — started his working life as a warehouseman. He then bravely decided to study for the Bar, which he did in the evenings. He enrolled at Gray's Inn in 1928 and succeeded in being called in 1931 at the age of 25. That was no mean achievement for a poor young man in those days and Silverman soon consolidated it by building up a successful practice on the Midland Circuit, which he combined with political work being elected to Birmingham City Council in 1934 and remaining on it until 1945.

That year he got into the Attlee landslide, he gained the Erdington division of Birmingham for Labour and continued to represent it — though from 1955 to 1974 under the different name of Aston — until his retirement in 1983. One of the things the Labour Right held against him was that, in doing so, he saw off Aston's sitting MP, Woodrow Wyatt, at the time one of Hugh Gaitskell's closest lieutenants, who was forced to leave Birmingham and go in search of a seat elsewhere.

In the Commons Silverman was a loyal supporter of Aneurin Bevan. But he was not, like most of Bevan's



acolytes, at all a gregarious or convivial figure. (His favourite recreation was the normally silent, if not quite solitary, one of playing chess: if Harold Lever was considered the best bridge-player in the House of Commons, Silverman was reputed to be the champion at chess.)

Yet, though he was rarely to be found in Bevan's circle in the Smoking Room, he could nearly always be depended upon to show up in the lobbies whenever a Bevanite rebellion was taking place. This gave him a slightly sinister reputation — he was not noted for taking an active part in Commons debates — and for a long time, partly no doubt because of his chairmanship of the Anglo-Russian Parliamentary Group, he was suspected of possessing fellow-travelling tendencies.

This was almost certainly untrue. Although he visited Moscow many times — and on one occasion even underwent hospital treatment there — Silverman was, in fact, an old-fashioned left-winger who had never adjusted his beliefs in the light of the increasing evidence of the Stalinist tyranny. He was typical of his generation, too, in possessing an admiration, bordering almost on idolatry, for Nehru's India. He was a long-serving chairman of the India League, and his only published work was a history of the Congress Party, which he produced in

1986, three years after he had left Parliament.

But that was not his only occupation in retirement. In 1985 he was asked by Birmingham City Council to conduct an inquiry into the Handsworth race riots (in which two people had been killed). His report, produced in some five months, predictably proved controversial. By naming unemployment and poverty as the chief cause of what had occurred — and rejecting any suggestion that drug dealers had been behind it — Silverman irritated the police, who had been hoping for more robust findings. There was even a public spat with the Deputy Chief Constable of the West Midlands over whether rubber bullets might have succeeded in containing the trouble.

It could certainly be said of Silverman that in his own terms he had kept the faith.

What he wrote in that report at the age of 80 was what he had believed all his life. He was an unreconstructed economic determinist of precisely the kind that the present Labour Party rejects. Although he had been present at the small and select gathering of old Bevanites that welcomed Harold Wilson to the leadership 33 years ago, he would almost certainly have had difficulty in finding his bearings in any New Britain created by Tony Blair.

In 1959 Julius Silverman married his secretary Eva Price, who survives him.

PROFESSOR JERZY WDOWCZYK

Professor Jerzy Wdowczyk, physicist, died in Lodz, Poland, on September 6 aged 61. He was born in Sosnowiec on July 28, 1935.

IN HIS work as physicist, Jerzy Wdowczyk's greatest contribution was to further the study of the "cosmic rays" which had first been detected in 1912 by Victor Hess. Hess's discovery of these rays, made during perilous balloon ascents, sparked off research worldwide and it was soon realised that the so-called "rays" were, in fact, largely atomic particles of astoundingly high individual energies.

Throughout the 1930s and 1940s several discoveries were made of relevance to the fundamental constituents of matter. The positron, muon, and the "strange particles" were all first detected in cosmic rays. The subject has become relevant to astronomy, too. The particles have been found to come from unknown sources beyond the Sun and even beyond the galaxy of the Milky Way.

Wdowczyk and his group of research scientists working at the Institute for Nuclear Research (associated with the university) by Alexander Zawadzki, himself a brilliant teacher and researcher. However, when he left for Paris in 1968 Wdowczyk stepped into his shoes. With his intuitive understanding of physics, coupled with considerable mathematical abilities and a personal enthusiasm and charm, he quickly established Wdowczyk as major cosmic ray research centre.

He collaborated with other universities all over the world, including in Britain, Germany, France and the United States. But perhaps his most

important collaboration was with the University of Durham, where he held an honorary doctorate. Starting in 1965, he was a frequent visitor to the university and reciprocally played host to the Durham group in Lodz. He and Arnold Wolfendale from Durham advanced many ideas in their research field and it was said that no cosmic ray conference was complete without the presentation of a new Wdowczyk-Wolfendale theory — some of them actually turned out to be right.

However, Wdowczyk's collaboration with the Soviet Union, though it had been profitable at first, fell on hard times with the collapse of Communism, though he did continue to coax some funds out of a variety of agencies.

Wdowczyk served as chairman of the cosmic ray commission of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics, as well as of many conferences and symposiums held in Lodz. Earlier this year he chaired the 15th Cracow Summer School of Cosmology, a school devoted to one of his specialties: the thorny question of the mass composition of ultra high energy cosmic rays.

He was a Curie prizewinner and a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society.

He leaves a widow, Helen, herself a physicist, and two sons and a daughter.

ANNABELLA

Annabella, film actress, died on September 18 aged 87. She was born on July 14, 1909.

EVEN from earliest childhood Annabella had a passion for cinema. As a child playing in the garden of her family home near Paris, the chicken shed out in the yard became her imaginary studio where, lost in a world of imagination, she would act out scenes from the films she had watched, taking upon herself the role of director, cameraman and leading lady all at once.

She rose, during the 1930s, to become one of France's most celebrated actresses and later moved to Britain to work. But Hollywood had always been her childhood dream. Invited there in 1938, she married Tyrone Power, one of the leading stars of the day. Yet though she never achieved great success in American films, she did not appear embarrassed. Looking back as an elderly woman over her career, she said: "I loved film, not to become a star, but to continue playing like when I was little."

Annabella was the stage name of Suzanne Georgette Charpentier, who was born in La Verrière-Saint-Hilaire, near Paris. Her father, the publisher of a small magazine, had a passion for photography and was always marshalling his family together for portrait shots. Suzanne inherited something of his passion for the visual arts.

Her film career was launched after her father met a friend of the director Abel Gance. This friend, on seeing Suzanne's *gamin* good looks in a photograph, recommended her to Gance for his next movie.

Filming of *Napoleon* began in 1925 with Suzanne playing Violine, a rapt admirer of the general. She appeared so beautifully on the screen that Gance expanded her part until her screen time rivalled that of the leading lady who was playing Josephine. Annabella was bitterly disappointed when, at the film's premiere in

1927, she found that most of her scenes had been cut.

It was Gance who renamed her Annabella, after Edgar Allan Poe's poem *Annabel Lee*, and it was under this name that she rose to fame in France in the 1930s. Her father managed her early career, securing her a small role first in René Clair's *Le Million* (1931) and then in *Quatorze Juillet* (1933).

Though she got on well with Clair, enjoying his sense of humour and practical jokes, her favourite director was the Hungarian, Paul Fejos, with whom she went to Budapest to make *Marie, légende hongroise*. He was a man of great sincerity, she later recalled, who, when a scene required her to weep, would be there behind the cameras looking at her with tears filling his own eyes.

In 1934 Annabella was named Best Actress at the Venice Biennale for her performance in *Vieilles d'armes* and, marked out as a star, found herself two years later lured across the Channel.

She made three films in Britain, the best of which was *Wings of the Morning* (1937) the first Technicolor feature to be made on this side of the Atlantic. Her part as Maria the Spanish gypsy was one she greatly enjoyed, not least because of her passion for Henry Fonda, her leading man. Though Annabella had by this time been married for five years to an actor, Jean Murat, Fonda is said to have had to flee the set at the end of each day's shooting to escape Annabella's amorous advances and her husband's rage. Annabella's first marriage was dissolved in 1938 and that same year she went to Hollywood.

She had fantasised about going there since childhood, though in the end she left little mark among the firmament of stars. But in the film *Suez* (1938) she played a sultry Egyptian beauty opposite Tyrone Power. He became, she later said, "the one great love of her life... He was what we all think romance will be



ROYALTY THEATRE

"I HAVE BEEN HERE BEFORE"

By J. B. Priestley

Sally Frost, Stephen Bayley, Oliver Goffler, Oliver Parfitt, James Cromwell, Walter Ormond, William Fox, Pauline Quirke, and Wilfrid Lawson

Mr Priestley quotes Rossetti: "I have been here before."

But when or how I cannot tell" and gracefully acknowledges his debt to Ouspensky "for some of Dr. Gortler's theories of 'Time and Recurrence', but forgets that philosophical young gentleman

"...of Siam

Who said: "It appears that I am

A creature that moves

In predestinate grooves

I'm not even a 'bus, I'm a tram."

But perhaps Mr. Priestley remembered him, for it must be confessed that the analogy (and possibly the quotation) is not precise. Strictly, Dr. Gortler's theory is that we are trolley-buses, moving ordinarily on a slightly spiralling course and repeating the greater part of our lives over and over again, but with the possibility of a saving, or a damning, swerve.

It is the making of the play, overriding a rigidity of theory that threatens to be barren and so transforming the story that it becomes more interesting than the most far-reaching that Mr. Priestley has written for the theatre or for the library. The scene is a country inn on the Yorkshire moors. Here Dr. Gortler comes expecting to find what he does find — a group of people, a rich husband, an unhappy wife, and a young schoolmaster, whose future he has, so to speak, mapped. Oliver is fated to run away with Janet; Walter, Janet's husband, will kill himself; by his death scandal and ruin will come to many people, and the lovers will be brought to poverty and bitterness in a career

ON THIS DAY

September 23, 1937

Having studied the writings of the philosopher P.D. Ouspensky, and J.W. Dunne's widely read book *An Experiment with Time*, J.B. Priestley wrote two "time" plays: *I Have Been Here Before* and *Time and the Conways*

...and existing. Every one in it is interesting in himself, not the puppet of a theory. Mr. Wilfrid Lawson's study of the husband's nerve-ridden despair has a rare intensity and power to evoke the spirit of evil: Mr. Fox shows with genuine accomplishment the change in the schoolmaster when the wind of destiny blows in the face of his rationalism: Miss Patricia Hilliard gives to the girl a saving tension; and Mr. Lewis Casson, whose production of the play is remarkable in its judgment of emphasis and pace, makes Gortler lovable as well as wise. But Gortler is never wiser — and this is the play's distinguishing merit — than when he and Mr. Priestley suddenly break the stiff outline of their theory and transcend it in an act of spiritual perception. Man can escape from his groove, says Gortler, and by an imaginative act transform his destiny and re-

turn him to

success

...unless an act of intervention breaks the recurrence, and Gortler, who has not been in this sun before, is the bringer of fresh knowledge — the only possible interventer. This is the point at which to say that Mr. Priestley makes the best possible use, from the outset, of the sense of fate in all these

NEWS

Clarke angers Tories on currency

■ Kenneth Clarke reignited the Tory row over Europe when he said that it would be pathetic if Britain delayed signing up to a single currency and then decided later that it wanted to join.

The Chancellor expected six or eight countries to set up a common currency on target in 1999 and if Britain was not among them, it would have lost the opportunity Page 1

Wright will keep bishop title

■ The Roman Catholic church admitted that the runaway bishop Roderick Wright is likely to remain a titular bishop despite his betrayal of his church and family. A church insider disclosed that the bishop's clerical status remains unaffected, although he will receive no pay or pension from the Church. Ann Widdecombe, the Conservative MP, called for Bishop Wright to be excommunicated Pages 1, 3

Thatcher's views

Baroness Thatcher is said today by a former policy adviser to have held views on Germany in the last year of her premiership which were little different to those of Alf Garnett Page 1

Yeltsin dilemma

President Yeltsin's life and the fate of his reforms hung in the balance as doctors debated whether he was fit enough to undergo his planned multiple bypass surgery Page 1

Low Pay Commission

Labour's proposed Low Pay Commission, on which business leaders will help to set a national minimum wage, will be established as a permanent body to oversee its enforcement Page 2

Young drinkers

Children as young as ten are becoming regular drinkers of alcohol, often with their parents' consent, one of the biggest and most established studies of children's health shows Page 4

Rantzen complaint

Esther Rantzen has told BBC executives that her career has been jeopardised by a *Panorama* journalist who wrote an article criticising her methods Page 5

Caesarean law suit

A woman is to take pioneering legal action after being forced by a hospital's court order to have a Caesarean section Page 6

Pope celebrates old King Clovis

■ The Pope celebrated the religious conversion of a pagan French king as demonstrators gathered in Paris to denounce the papal visit and declare that France is a secular state with no need for popes or kings. More than 200,000 people gathered for a papal Mass at a military airbase near Rheims to mark the baptism of the Frankish King Clovis 1,500 years ago Page 9



Kevin and Pandora Maxwell celebrating the christening of their son, Thomas, with their other five children at Moulseford, Oxfordshire

BUSINESS

Railways: A former British Rail director has made £4 million profit for eight days' work with a privatised company Page 48

Rates: Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, seems certain to resist Eddie George's call for higher interest rates when he meets the Governor of the Bank of England today, widening their rift Page 48

Lloyd's: Names vented their anger at the £400,000 bonus for the chairman David Rowland. The bonus is a reward for the conclusion of the controversial £3.2 billion reform programme Page 48

Flotation: Norwich Union is to float on the Stock Exchange next summer and give bonuses averaging £700 to its three million with-profits policyholders Page 19

ARTS

High notes: Richard Jones's *Ring* cycle, one of the most talked-about opera productions of recent years, returns to Covent Garden. And no matter what they say about the staging, the music-making is as wonderful as ever Page 18

Leeds winner: Ilya Itin, a 29-year-old Russian, has been declared overall winner of the Leeds International Piano Competition, although the rumoured up had much to offer Page 18

Jazz: The spirit of Reinhardt lives, as Martin Taylor plays Ronnie Scott's, Birmingham Page 18

Long journey: Beautiful images are the star in Robert Lepage's epic *Seven Streams of the River Ota*, a play more than seven hours long, at the National Theatre Page 19

FEATURES

Discovery of a planet: How scientific rivals in England and France each claimed to have identified Neptune 150 years ago Page 14

Done in a flash: Subliminal screen advertising, identified and feared as a psychological weapon in the 1950s, has been discredited as almost useless Page 14

Sharp practice: Dame Pauline Neville-Jones, formerly Britain's top female diplomat, talks about why she resigned from the Foreign Office and her new job Page 15

Memories: The diaries of George Urban, once an adviser to Margaret Thatcher. Part one reveals her affinity with the philosophy of Alf Garnett — and what she really thought of the Germans Pages 16, 17

SPORT

Motor racing: Damon Hill's hopes of winning the Formula One world drivers' championship suffered a setback when he could finish only second to Jacques Villeneuve in the Portuguese Grand Prix. His fate now rests on the final race in Japan Pages 21, 25, 26

Premiership: Leicester City underlined the mounting problems at Tottenham Hotspur with a surprise 2-1 victory at White Hart Lane Page 28

Golf: America retained the Solheim Cup after a disappointing performance on the final day of the match from Europe Page 27

Cricket: Leicestershire's feat in securing the second county championship in their history was a tribute to their team work and the inspired captaincy of James White Page 26

TV LISTINGS

Preview: In the inheritance business strangers can do better than close relatives. *Cutting Edge* (Channel 4, 9pm). Review: Peter Barnard considers *How To Be Prime Minister* Page 47

OPINION

Thatcher's Germans

George Urban's book on Margaret Thatcher is essential reading for all who seek to understand the era. The lady herself will hardly be flattered by his account, but his admiration is not entirely extinguished by disillusion Page 21

The point of the centre

The Liberal Democrats are still small and iconoclastic enough to play around with ideas that might initially seem too revolutionary for a large party Page 21

Surgical dressing

Those who are smart, scrubbed and smelling of fresh linen stand a far better chance of access to life-saving attention than those who look like an old tramp Page 21

COLUMNS

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

Ancient institutions have lost self-confidence. Anyone should have been able to see that Sarah would not make a Duchess. Bill would not make a President. James would not make an officer and Roddy would not make a bishop Page 20

PETER RIDDELL

Tony Blair has offered the Liberal Democrats a future as players in national politics. But the party will spend much of its conference kicking against this destiny Page 20

OBITUARIES

Major-General Pat Turpin, Director of Movements; Julius Silverman, former Labour MP; Anna-bella, film actress; Professor Jerry Wdowczyk, physicist Page 23

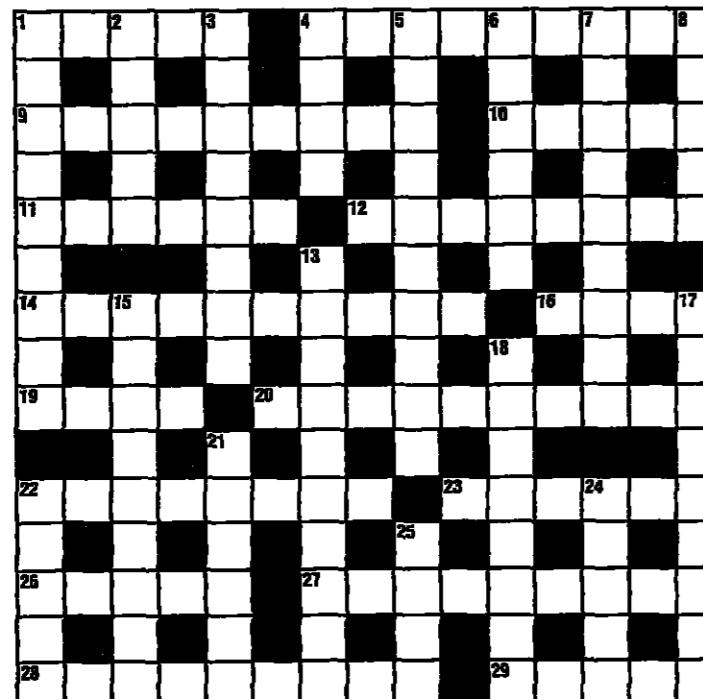
LETTERS

Moral obligations on tax; extending choice of schooling; working mothers; teacher training; minimum wage Page 21

THE PAPERS

Armed infiltrations from North Korea probably do not represent the advance guard of invasion. Yet with hundreds of thousands of troops massed, the danger of full-scale war is never far away *The New York Times*

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,280



ACROSS

1 Indian city built around old marketplace (5).

4 It's not legit, somehow, accepting money like this (3-6).

9 As Holmes occasionally was, prior to *His Last Bow* (9).

10 Holiday destination popular after spring (5).

11 Par achieved by woman with new driver (6).

12 Foreign money deposited in bank not long ago (8).

14 Erratic priest accepted by a Parisian mob half-heartedly (10).

16 The team uttered triumphant cries (4).

19 Flat race, for instance, not quite completed (4).

20 Add to mass, involving actual English with Latin included (10).

22 All-embracing method that's associated with American theatres (8).

23 One goes round to decorate a low joint (6).

26 Man of honour executed in hours of darkness (5).

27 Application form for 19 — clear? (9).

28 Watch cover (6-3).

29 Return to deposit gold sovereign (5).

30 Holiday destination popular after spring (5).

31 Par achieved by woman with new driver (6).

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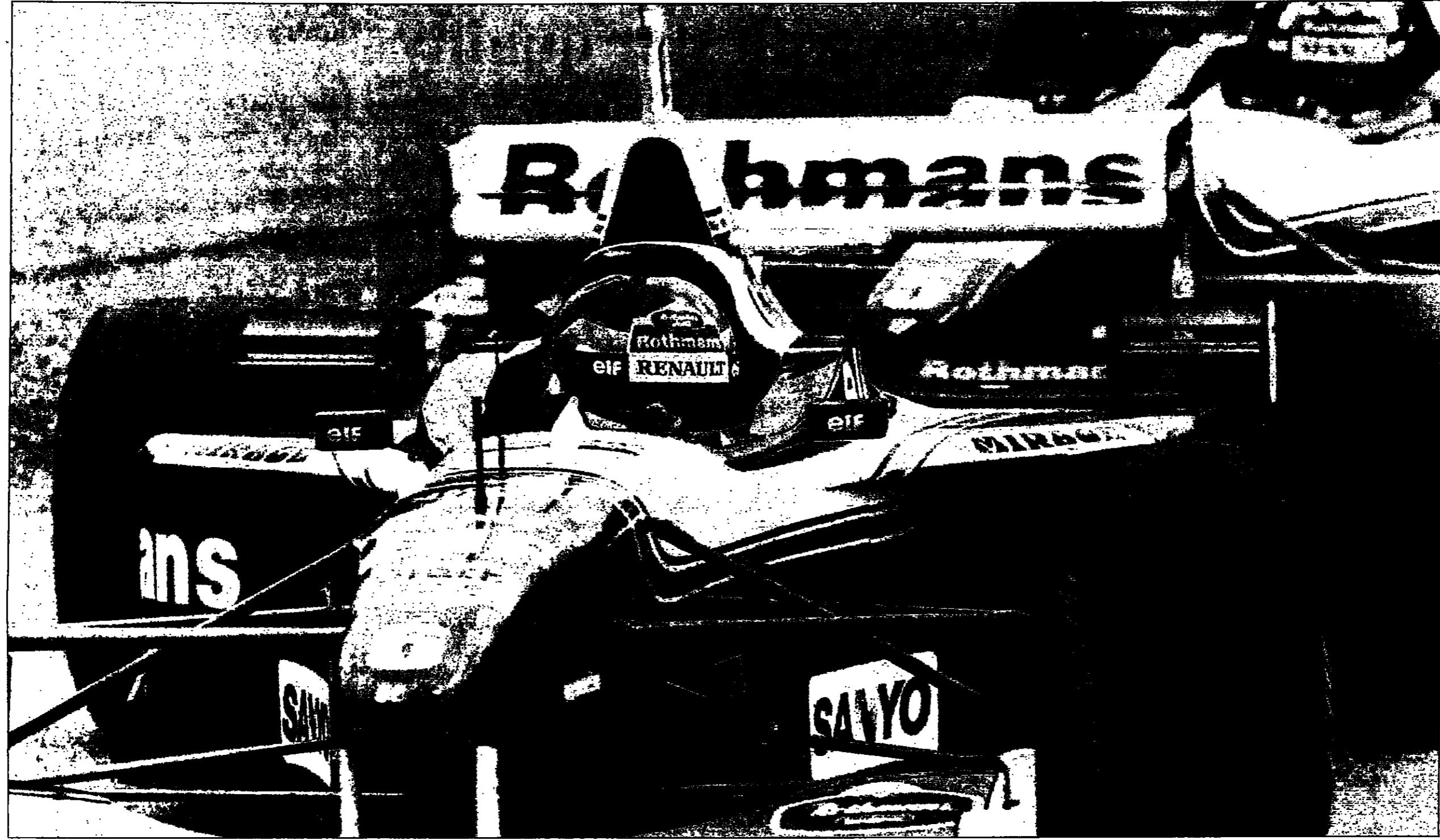
108 Holiday destination popular after spring (5).

109 The team uttered triumphant cries (4).



TIMES SPORT

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 23 1996



Villeneuve leads Hill through the chicane in the Portuguese Grand Prix at Estoril yesterday before pulling clear. Hill must finish in the first six in Suzuka to be sure of the title. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Villeneuve's victory takes championship to final race

Hill driven to the wire

FROM OLIVER HOLT
IN ESTORIL

IT WAS once a headlong pursuit, a swashbuckling, carving dash for the title that left the rest of the best drivers in the dust. Now, Damon Hill's struggle to clinch his first Formula One drivers' world championship has become an agonising crawl on all-fours, knees bloodied and elbows grazed.

Suddenly, now that two chances to wrap the championship up early have slipped through his grasp, Hill will find himself a hostage to fortune when he tries for the last time to clinch the title at the Japanese Grand Prix in Suzuka in three weeks, the final race of the season.

He finished second to Jacques Villeneuve, his Williams-Renault team-mate and the only man who can catch him, in a thrilling Portuguese Grand Prix here yesterday and still holds a nine-point lead over his rival. But instead of going East with his title, he is only a mechanical failure or a backmarker's error away from finishing world championship runner-up for the third year in succession.

Villeneuve's win may also delay a decision on Hill's future. His capture of the championship would undoubtedly boost his earning potential and, although there are rumours that his destination will be announced today, it is far more likely, with Benetton, Jordan and Stewart still showing interest, that negotiations will drag on.

The title should still be his.

of course. Villeneuve must win to have any chance of denying Hill the achievement that once seemed likely to come with several races to spare and, even if he does, the Englishman needs only to finish in the top six to claim the prize he deserves so richly. If they were to finish level on points, Hill would take the title by virtue of more wins.

The legions of British fans who will stay up late into the night to watch him try to end his odyssey in Japan, though, will have uncomfortable memories of final-race show-downs of dreams shattered by circumstances beyond their heroes' control. It will be a nerve-jangling, nail-biting occasion.

They will remember Nigel

Mansell's swooping across the track in Adelaide in 1986 after a puncture ruined his hopes and handed the title to Alain Prost. They will recall, too, Hill's intense gaze after Michael Schumacher used his crippled Benetton to drive him off the road at the same circuit two years ago, handing the championship to the German by a single point.

"Anything is possible in motor racing," Villeneuve said, after he had driven to a brilliant victory here. "Nine points does not look very good, but you never know what can happen. Damon could make a mistake, something could go wrong with his car, but then again, that could happen to me, too."

"It will be a great battle and

it is not over until it is over. Until the last lap is finished, you never know what the outcome will be. I will just have to try to win, to do everything I possibly can and see what happens then. It is going to be very interesting."

Race report 26
Results and standings 26

Hill has not won for four races — since the German Grand Prix at the end of July — and his performance yesterday even provoked a mild rebuke from the Williams technical director, Patrick Head. "Jacques won the race on his speed, which Damon did not have," Head said. "I

feel Damon should have wrapped it up here, but I still expect him to do it in Japan. I would stake my life savings on it."

Hill, who looked as though he was going to clinch the championship at the Italian Grand Prix in Monza a fortnight ago until he collided with a pile of tyres on the fifth lap and was forced to retire, made another fine start yesterday and watched in delight as Villeneuve was passed by both Jean Alesi and Schumacher before the first corner.

But, after the young Canadian had executed a daring and startling overtaking manoeuvre to pass Schumacher on the sixteenth lap of the 70-lap race, he began to erode Hill's advantage. Hill's bravura in the

early part of the race was replaced by a more cautious approach as the prize beckoned, and that allowed Villeneuve to move himself right on to Hill's tail.

When they both made their third and final pit-stops, Villeneuve sneaked out just in front and clutch problems in the latter stages prevented Hill from attempting to pass his rival. Villeneuve coasted home by nearly 20 seconds, with Schumacher third.

"Before this race," Hill said, "I could not help but think I was within an hour and 45 minutes of becoming world champion. But I will have to wait for Suzuka now to find out what is going to happen. I have waited for it all season; in fact, I have waited for it for several seasons, and for longer than that, so I suppose I can wait for three more weeks."

"I drove today with the world championship in mind. When they told me towards the end that there was a clutch problem, I thought the last thing I needed at that stage of the race was mechanical failure and a non-finish. I am still absolutely confident that I will be world champion at the end of the season."

The celebrations will have to wait for Suzuka and the famous Log Cabin bar in its grounds where Ayrton Senna, Hill's late team-mate, celebrated championship victories in the past. If he had clinched the title last night, he would have partied into the early hours of this morning at a night-club called Coconuts in the seaside town of Cascias. Instead, for one more race, he is going to be the target in a shiv.

HOW THE RIVAL DRIVERS VIEW THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SHOWDOWN



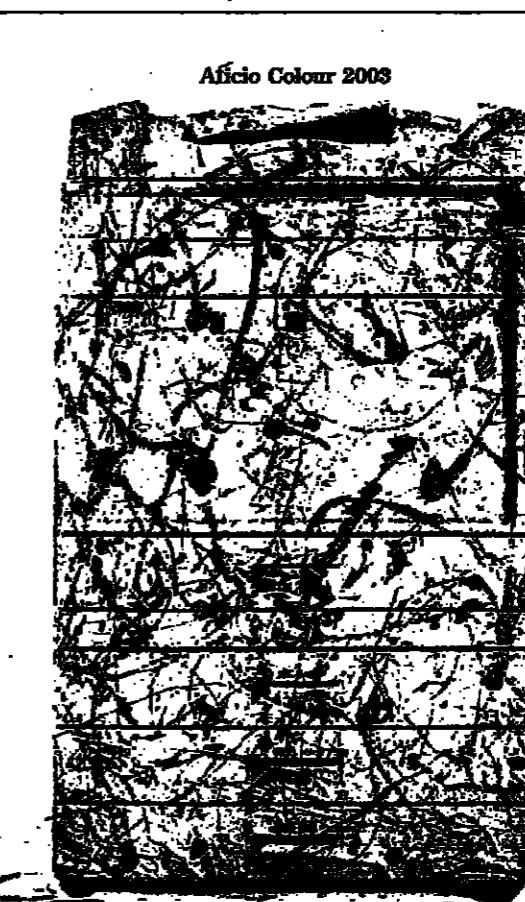
HILL (87 POINTS)

"I don't know how Jacques got in front of me. I thought I had enough in hand when I went into the pits. I was coming down the straight, I saw a car coming out of the pits and thought it was a Tyrrell. Then I saw the Rothmans on the back — I was pretty shocked. I am still absolutely confident that I will be world champion."



VILLENEUVE (78 POINTS)

"I had nothing to lose by passing Michael. I had to beat Damon or lose the championship right there. It was a big risk — but it was worth it. Nine points does not look very good, but you never know what can happen. Damon could make a mistake, something could go wrong with his car. It will be a great battle."



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Walker takes honours after bad break for Eurosport

Auntie still has a few friends in the pit lane of Formula One that help the BBC to maintain a slight edge in motor racing broadcasting almost to the very end of the road. Of course, it is commercial considerations that will force the BBC out of motor racing next season, but yesterday it was a commercial break, forced on the only rival broadcaster in the United Kingdom, Eurosport, that emphasised the advantage handed to Murray Walker and his crew.

While the BBC's man in the pits, Tony Jardine, was being told exclusively that Damon Hill's problem in the last ten laps of the Portuguese Grand Prix was due to a slipping clutch, Eurosport was off air. When it returned, not even John Watson, whose former

driving experience and most precise ability to translate what is happening inside the cockpit and the minds of the racers, was informed about the reason why Hill began losing a crucial half a second a lap to his Williams' team-mate and yesterday's race victor, Jacques Villeneuve.

It is fascinating, the viewer having this satellite dish and a button that allows one to alternate transmissions between rival broadcasters of the same event. Few of us would switch off grandfather Walker for long: this 72-year-old who exudes enthusiasm for the sport the way the cars give off high-octane fumes.

Ride with Walker, and you must abandon any pretence at suppressing chauvinism. He is British to the core, he presumes that everyone at

home is riding with Damon and no one else, and even when Dr Jonathan Palmer, his cerebral co-commentator, puts a soothing and restraining hand on the high-pitched tone of Walker's own commentary, the paternal protectiveness from Walker towards Hill wins through.

Thank goodness ITV, when it takes over from the BBC next season, has seen the good sense in capturing Walker. For all that audiences have been encouraged to laugh at his human gaffes, he transmits knowledge laced with such a volume of emotion that he remains an act in himself.

"Damon has got to stay cool, ice cool," he shouted on lap 46. "Villeneuve is right behind him!"

Long before this the differences between the BBC and

Eurosport had been apparent. The commercial channel offered such a greater commitment, spending hours taking the viewer through practice laps that, with the insight of Watson at the microphone, left us in no doubt that the Williams chassis made it the car that no other manufacturer could compete with on this Estoril circuit. Mischiefously, Watson had admitted: "I'd like it to rain half an hour before the start, just to add that little bit of ginger to 20 nervous guys on the grid."

But, when they were on the starting grid, as Hill eased smoothly and Alesi kept both Schumacher and Villeneuve behind him, Watson came into his own. He spoke of "listening" to Villeneuve's engine, observing the "short shifts" the Canadian was deploying to avoid wheel spin in the turbulence behind Schumacher's Ferrari. And Watson added that "Alesi can't run any quicker, but Schumacher and Villeneuve are trapped in the air behind him, whereas Hill has clean air and a clear track ahead of him."

The rival broadcast stations both paid immediate tribute to the way Hill drove out the

demon from his starting technique, though again Walker was closest to the pitch. "It's a wonderful start for Damon Hill, it's a bad start for Jacques Villeneuve," he called.

On the opening laps, as Hill eased smoothly and Alesi kept both Schumacher and Villeneuve behind him, Watson came into his own. He spoke of "listening" to Villeneuve's engine, observing the "short shifts" the Canadian was deploying to avoid wheel spin in the turbulence behind Schumacher's Ferrari. And Watson added that "Alesi can't run any quicker, but Schumacher and Villeneuve are trapped in the air behind him, whereas Hill has clean air and a clear track ahead of him."

Again, there was nothing

between the BBC and Eurosport in identifying the crowning piece of driving, the determination with which Villeneuve overtook Schumacher on lap 16 when both came across the slower moving back marker, Gianni Lavaggi. And, if the Portuguese television pictures that both were dependent upon flagged towards the middle of the race, then so, just a little, did the concentration of Walker. "I'm not going to say there aren't any clouds in the sky, because there are clouds in the sky," he commented, "but they're very healthy white clouds."

It was, however, Walker who first voiced suspicions that something other than a lack of aggressive driving was holding Hill back after the third fuel stop, and it was

Walker whose voice grew obviously angered when Patrick Head, the Williams' technical director, said in an interview that the technical problem was slight, but Villeneuve had been more aggressive in getting through the back markers.

At the end, Rider called a shade optimistically for viewers to switch on live for the final race, which will mean rising before the sun on October 13 when the Japanese Grand Prix begins at 5am. It is the BBC's last race of the era, but two years ago, when the season similarly finished at an ungodly hour with a race from Melbourne, three million viewers sat through the night. They may do so again, the finger poised on the button between the BBC and its rival.

MOTOR RACING: CANADIAN MAKES DECISIVE MOVE IN STUNNING STYLE TO KEEP HIS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP HOPES ALIVE

Villeneuve sparkles with star quality

FROM OLIVER HOLT
IN ESTORIL

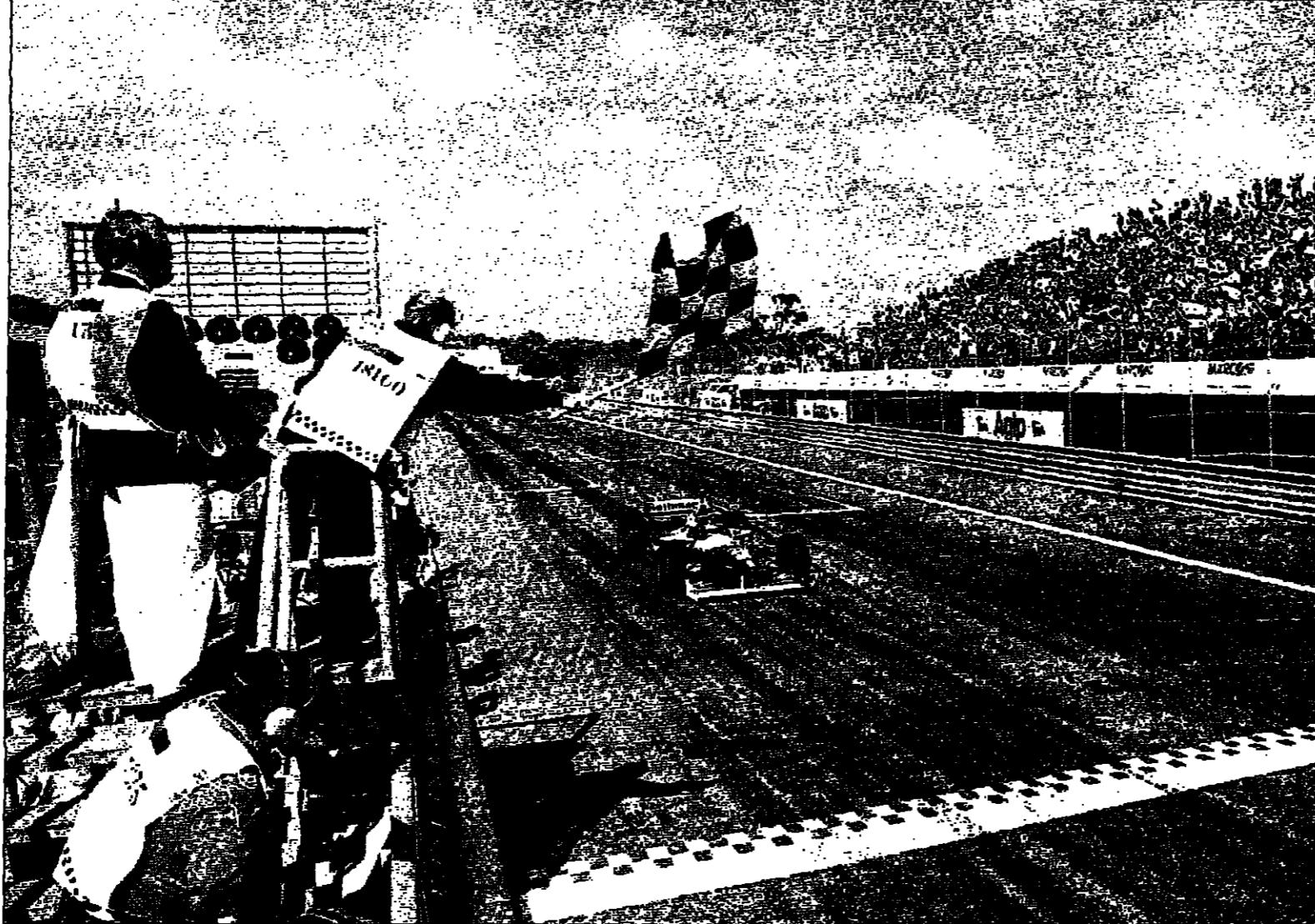
THEY got the flotsam and jetsam out of the way in the preliminary skirmishes and then they battled it out head-to-head. The Portuguese Grand Prix here swayed one way, then the other, but just when Damon Hill must have thought his elusive first world drivers' championship was in his pocket, Jacques Villeneuve drove the race of his young life to keep his own hopes alive.

Villeneuve produced a manoeuvre straight from a film script to turn the race on its head and transform his fortunes. It was so bold it startled even its victim, Michael Schumacher, but the struggle for the title is going down to the wire and desperate measures are demanded in these Days of Thunder.

Villeneuve needed to win yesterday's race to have any chance of denying Hill, his Williams-Renault team-mate, the title when they contest the last grand prix of the season in Japan next month, but, after a dreadful start, the Canadian was lying in fourth place early in the race, stuck behind Schumacher and seemingly powerless to act as Hill gradually extended a comfortable lead.

Hill, who started the race from the twentieth pole position of his career and was buoyed by a hug from his friend, the former Beatle, George Harrison, on the grid before the start, made a fine getaway, a contrast to the stuttering starts he has suffered in recent races. He swerved first one way and then the other to block the advances of Villeneuve and Alesi respectively and hurtled into the first corner clear in the lead. He looked comfortable at the front as Villeneuve toiled behind Schumacher and the race looked as though it would become a dull procession that would push Hill inexorably towards the championship.

There had only been one overtaking move in the whole race at a circuit where it is notoriously difficult to overtake, when suddenly, on the sixteenth lap, Villeneuve closed right up on the German as he was slowed by the Minardi of Giovanni Lavaggi. As they rounded the final, sweeping turn that leads to the pit straight, Villeneuve stole



Villeneuve takes the chequered flag at Estoril to win the Portuguese Grand Prix and keep Hill's hands off the championship champagne

DETAILS FROM ESTORIL

RESULT: 1. J Villeneuve (Can, Williams) 1hr 40min 22.91sec; 2. D Hill (GB, Williams) 1hr 40min 23.96sec; 3. M Schumacher (Ger, Ferrari) 1hr 40min 23.97sec; 4. J Alesi (Fr, Benetton) 1hr 40min 27.38sec; 5. G Berger (Aust, Benetton) 1hr 40min 27.39sec; 6. H-H Frentzen (Ger, Sauber) 1hr 40min 27.41sec; 7. D Diniz (Br, Ligier) 1hr 40min 27.44sec; 8. M Sato (Jpn, Toyota) 1hr 40min 27.45sec; 9. D Coulthard (GB, McLaren) both at two laps; 10. J Herbert (GB, Sauber) 9. M Brundle (GB, Jordan) 8. M Moreno (Spa, Minardi) 7. G Lavaggi (It, Minardi) 6. P Lam (Por, Minardi) both at five laps. Did not finish: M Hakkinen (Fin, McLaren) on lap 10.

up on Schumacher's outside as the world champion searched for him on the inside in his mirrors. It was the kind of melodramatic, swashbuckling move that Formula One has been starved of for so long. It seemed just and proper that it should be the turning point of the race.

By the time that Schumacher realised what was happening, it was too late and, as it seemed that Villeneuve would be boxed in behind Lavaggi as he tore along next to Schumacher, he darted out in front of him and into third place. He overtook Alesi when the Frenchman made his first pit stop on the 23rd lap and began to hunt down Hill.

"I think the experience I

have had with Oval racing in IndyCar racing helped with that move," Villeneuve said. "It was a lot of fun. I told the team before the race I was sure I could overtake on the outside at that point and they just laughed and said they

would pick me off the guard rail. But it was worth it to take a big risk and I had nothing to lose. If I had not done it, Damon would be world champion."

At first, it seemed even

Villeneuve's daring would not be enough as Hill drove a flawless race from the front and maintained a steady lead of up to 1.3sec over his rival until their second pit stops on the 34th and 35th laps. Hill still led, but Villeneuve wore him down. By the 37th lap, his advantage was just 2.1sec, next it was 1.4sec, then 0.8sec. The rest were nowhere. It was a private battle.

Hill made his third stop on the 49th lap, Villeneuve, marginally quicker, on the fifth lap and, as Hill hurtled down the straight, the Canadian nipped out in front of him. "I was quite surprised," Hill said. "When I saw the car coming out, I thought it must be a Tyrrell. It was only when I got a bit closer and saw the Rothmans livery on the

back that I realised it was Jacques.

"I felt pretty confident I could stay ahead after my start, but Jacques did a great job. After he got out in front, he was really flying and I could not stay with him. I cannot be too disappointed, though, because I am only one point away from the world championship."

Hill's fading chances of catching his team-mate disappeared when he developed a clutch problem late in the race and Villeneuve accelerated away to victory by a margin of nearly 20sec. The championship may still elude the Canadian but, if he drives like this next season, he will not have much longer to wait for his first title.

TOURING CARS

Controversy overtakes late charge by Menu

BY MARK FOGARTY

ALAIN MENU, the Swiss driver, claimed second place from Rickard Rydell, in a Volvo, as the *Auto Trader* British Touring Car Championship came to a controversial conclusion at Brands Hatch yesterday. Menu won the 25th round of the series in his Renault Laguna and finished fourth in the final race to secure the runner-up spot for the third year in a row.

He overcame a deficit of 14 points to beat Rydell by three after the Swedish driver, who was also third in the championship last year, could only manage fifth in the first race and then failed to finish the deciding event when his Volvo 850 suffered a driveshaft failure.

But Menu's achievement was overshadowed by the aftermath of a collision with Roberto Ravaglia of Italy, as they battled for the lead going into the first corner of the opening race. Menu's car made contact with Ravaglia's BMW 320i, sending them both into spins that set off a chain reaction of crashes behind them, causing the race to be restarted.

Menu was able to retake his second place on the grid and led from the start while Ravaglia's car remained in the pits undergoing repairs until a few laps from the finish, when he rejoined the tail of the field.

When Menu came up behind him on the last lap, Ravaglia, who was still angry about the earlier incident, balked him a few corners from the finish. Menu lost so much ground that he was almost overtaken by Ravaglia's

Holland.

"I have never seen anything so disgraceful in all my career," Menu said. Championship officials fined Menu £2,000 for causing the original collision but the penalty was overturned by race stewards on appeal, while Ravaglia was fined £1,500 for his blocking tactics.

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IN BRIEF

Zülle in sight of victory in Spain

ALEX ZÜLLE, of Switzerland, tightened his grip on the Tour of Spain cycling race when he emerged from the mist to take the fifteenth stage at Alcoy de la Demanda yesterday. In another masterful conclusion at Brands Hatch yesterday, Menu won the 25th round of the series in his Renault Laguna and finished fourth in the final race to secure the runner-up spot for the third year in a row.

In the overall standings, Zülle leads Laurent Jalabert, of France, by 1min 21sec, with Laurent Dufaux, of Switzerland, just over four minutes further back.

With only six stages of the race to go, Zülle looks certain to be champion, having seen off his main challenger, Miguel Indurain, last Friday. Indurain retired from the race through exhaustion.

Late decider

Bowls: Alison Flint and Jim Marsland of Cove, Hampshire, won the Ashburn Homes national mixed pairs championship at Watford yesterday, beating Graham Roe and Enid Adams of Wilford, Nottingham, 19-18 in the final.

Roe and Adams built up a 14-6 lead but Flint and Marsland clawed back to lead 18-17 on the nineteenth end. Roe and Adams then tied the scores, only to concede a single on the deciding end.

Hamill's title

Speedway: Billy Hamill, of the United States, who rides for Cradley Heath and Stoke, snatched the world title from the defending champion, Hans Nielsen, on the latter's home track in Vojens, Denmark on Saturday.

Vaulting ahead

Gymnastics: Dominic Brindle, of Leeds, and Lisa Mason, from Huntingdon, became the new English champions in Liverpool at the weekend. Heathrow Gym Club, coached by Vincent Walduck, had three of the top six in the women's event.

Has Schumacher seen the back of Hill for the last time?

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Youngsters offer Graham consolation in defeat

First, the good news. Leeds United, though at half-strength and then further reduced after 52 minutes by Carlton Palmer's sending off, revealed a collective spirit in a 1-0 defeat by Newcastle United on Saturday that can take the club a long way. George Graham will be reassured that he has not inherited from Howard Wilkinson a leaderless, dispirited squad. At Elland Road, of all places, it is uncommon to hear a losing team being cheered off the field.

Newcastle, likewise satisfied, gained their third win away from home, an ability which a few months ago could have won them the FA Car-

ting Premiership title. Kevin Keegan was glad to welcome "a new trend", comparing this performance with one of the finest of last season ... at Anfield, where they lost by the odd goal in seven. Now, Alan Shearer's first goal for them with a moving ball, following three when it was static, wiped from the slate another small fraction of the massive investment in his muscular but unsightly skills.

Bad news? In 90 minutes of predominantly rugged challenges and often inaccurate passing, punctuated occasionally by the mercurial Asprilla, there was little to foster any optimism that our most strongly attended clubs are moving any nearer the sophistication of better foreign teams. Furthermore, it was discour-

aging, if predictable, to hear Graham criticising Paul Alcock, the Surrey referee, for applying the laws which prevent players kicking each other.

Norman Hunter, chopper-turned commentator, observed at half-time that he had not seen one tackle in a first half in which three, besides Palmer, were booked. Not Hunter-tackles, perhaps, and all the better for that.

Long-term benefit to the English game of the prolific import of foreigners such as Asprilla, Cantona, Kinkladze and the rest will only occur if they are correctly protected by referees so that they

may demonstrate how the game can be played with imagination.

Keegan said that, at half-time, he had warned his players that the referee was severe on kicking — euphemistically termed tackling — from behind. We can but wish the same would be true of every referee in every match, but too many self-serving managers are inclined to confuse the issue by random denigration of referees who restrict physical excess. Neither Graham nor Keegan became outstanding players themselves by bending the laws as opposed to bending the ball. The absence of Yoboah, Dorico,

Deane, Bowyer and Pemberton certainly presented Graham with a problem, and contributed to another defeat in his new post. Yet Ford, Couzens and his substitute Jackson, inexperienced youngsters, brought heartening zeal to their attempt to match Newcastle in midfield. So much so that Newcastle, without Ferdinand, were seldom dominant.

Indeed, there were still question marks against Newcastle's defence, suspect last season and which Sharpe and the profligate Wallace now came close to exploiting in the last half hour, and might have done

with a leader more penetrating than the slowing Rush. Graham's initial 3-4-3 formation looked effective until Palmer's foul on Asprilla and Shearer forced his departure shortly before half-time after which Leeds compacted into 4-3-2.

This formation was punctured only once, on the hour, when Beardsey and Lee created the gap for Shearer to shoot low past Martyn. Newcastle were strong on effort, short on inspiration. Asprilla, in his second appearance alongside Shearer, gave the occasion its few moments of fantasy, though their lack of integration left Shearer scratching his chin in puzzlement. Where and how does Asprilla play when Ferdinand is fit?

Keegan's other selection dilemma also remains: the elusive, tempe- mentally vulnerable Ginola, on the left, or the husky Gillespie, substitute when Ginola pulled a hamstring after half an hour?

Newcastle should in fact have put the issue beyond doubt before Shearer scored. Three times in the last 20 minutes of the first half, Asprilla ghosted clear. The first time his low cross went begging, the second Shearer hit a piledriver of a shot straight at Martyn, the third saw Shearer smothered at the end of his run as he charged menacingly to meet the ball.

LEEDS UNITED (3-4-3): N Martin — D Wetmore, C Palmer, R Johnson (sub: G Kelly), M Ford, A Couzens (sub: M Jackson, 66min), I Hart, R Wallace (sub: W Boyle, 88min). NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-3-2): P Smeek — S NEWCOMB (sub: S Howey), J Beresford — R Lee, P Beardsey (sub: L Clark, 75), D Barn, D Gonda (sub: K Gallegos, 33) — A Shearer, T Asprilla. Referee: P Alcock.

FOOTBALL: TEENAGER SHOWS WAY AS LEICESTER ENJOY FIRST AWAY WIN OF PREMIERSHIP SEASON

Heskey puts Tottenham to the sword

Tottenham Hotspur 1
Leicester City 2

By BRIAN GLANVILLE

TOTTENHAM Hotspur have still to win a home game in the League this season and, had they saved this one, it would have been a tragedy. Promoted Leicester City achieved their first away success of the FA Carling Premiership in corroborating style.

For long periods of the first half, they ran Tottenham ragged, especially down the right, and the home side could never subdue Leicester's muscular, dynamic, 18-year-old winger, Emile Heskey, whose display made you doubt more deeply than ever any system — England's included — that prefers wing backs to true wingers.

Leicester, it is true, very nearly threw the game away. Heskey had set up their opening goal after 21 minutes when, neatly fed by Taylor, he thundered down the right wing with Nethercot in futile attendance, finally crossing for Claridge to score.

Claridge himself would probably have got the second goal that Leicester so badly needed to consolidate their superiority when Heskey put him through, but the striker, still hobbling from the injury which would eventually force him off the field, hesitated momentarily, could not get up steam and ended, eventually, with a useless square pass.

To give Tottenham their due, they were once again seriously below strength, although, once again, you had to wonder why they were so passive in the transfer market all summer. "We know what we need," Gerry Francis, the manager, said. "We've known what we've needed for a long time. Certainly, in some way, we've got to strengthen the squad. We need at least three players on top of the boys coming back."

Mysteriously, the Israel international, Ronny Rosenthal,



Campbell breaks through a tackle by Lewis as another Leicester player, Lennon, moves in to challenge him at White Hart Lane yesterday

their failing in midfield, but it was hard to be without either of their regular strikers, Teddy Sheringham and Chris Armstrong. Desperation, no doubt, moved Francis to try Campbell, the big, versatile defender, up front alongside young Allen. Andy Sinton, whose own physical state kept him off the field until half-time, did make a difference when he eventually came on.

Mysteriously, the Israel international, Ronny Rosenthal, was not used until five minutes from the end, having spent much of the previous 85 trotting forlornly up and down the touchline. It is strange the club should keep him at all when he is deployed so rarely and almost grudgingly.

Leicester's football was measurably more imaginative, inventive and, above all, quicker than Tottenham's. Taylor and Izett were full of life, skill and ideas in midfield. Heskey, according to his manager, Martin O'Neill, "was absolutely magnificent"; who added: "He's very important for us. I keep forgetting he's 18. Just picks it up and goes at players."

In addition to making the

first goal, Heskey, fouled after 56 minutes, also gained Leicester a penalty, which they missed. Usually, Parker would have taken it, but it was not yet on the field. Walsh hit it hard, but Walker, diving to his left, did wonderfully well to save it, even though there was some suspicion that he might have carried it over his own line.

Heskey, for good measure, struck the base of a post when he received the ball from Taylor a dozen minutes from the end. "The manager told us at half-time to keep it going," he said. "We picked ourselves up and kept it going."

Leicester, surely, are a team that can only improve and

their confidence, despite this season's early disappointments, was a delight to see. Nevertheless, as O'Neill pointed out: "Kasey Keller kept us in it with a couple of magnificent saves."

When Tottenham had so fortuitously emerged from Wilson's penalty, after Prior fouled Campbell, they suddenly revived. Twice in a minute, Keller tipped over from Fox and Nelson. Eight minutes from the end, he saved a thunderbolt from Anderson, who is still playing despite his groin injury. Is this wise?

Leicester's much-delayed, deeply-deserved winner, five minutes from the end, was surprisingly simple — a right

wing corner by Parker, a curiously unopposed header by Marshall.

Marshall, in fact, should

really have got that vital

second goal much earlier,

seven minutes from half-time,

to be exact, when, receiving

from Izett, Heskey — who

else? — reached the goalline

with an exquisite feint to pull

the ball back into the goal-

mouth. Marshall shot past the

posts. He made amends later.

Then, from the penalty spot, J Edmiston (sub: A Smith, 45min), C Calderwood, S Nethercott, C Wilson (sub: R Fox, D Howlett, K Nelson (sub: R Prior, 86min), R Anderson — S Campbell, R Allen

LEICESTER CITY (3-5-2): K Keller — S Grayson, J Watts, S Walsh — M Izett, N Letts, S Taylor, S Lewis (sub: J Marshall, 88), E Heskey (sub: A Walker, 31), E Heskey (sub: A Walker, 86min)

Referee: S Dunn

to say some appalling individual mistakes, but, perhaps, too, they suffered because of a tactical error by Gullit.

He began with a 4-4-2 formation and Chelsea were just not comfortable with it.

The game was played at a terrific rattle and an exposed, flat defence was hurried into mistakes.

Gullit reverted to his three-

man back-line after the break, but by then the horse was out of the stable, around the track and heading for the finish. Yet it could have been very different, if the referee had not ignored a blatant trip on Hughes in the penalty area at 1-0; if Berger's apparently offside first goal had not been allowed to stand and if Hughes had not been spectacularly thwarted, again at 1-0.

Liverpool seem a safer bet for the title. Last season's suspect defence has been stiffened by the discovery of Dominic Matteo's talent as a sweeper. Glenn Hoddle, the watching England manager, will also have enjoyed the ever-growing maturity of McManaman and the confidence that a first Anfield goal of the season brought to Fowler's play.

It was a foreigner, though, who took the honours. Patrik Berger has the grace of a jaguar moving forward and his two goals were taken with fluent ease.

After Fowler had put Liverpool ahead with an emphatic header in the fifteenth minute, Berger began to exert a controlling influence with intelligent running from deep. Both his goals owed much to criminal hesitancy in the Chelsea midfield, but his finishing was wonderfully cool.

The rout was completed by a disastrous own goal from Myers on the stroke of half-time, and Barnes — with a volley that deflected wickedly off Leboeuf. It can be

This was a bad defeat, but owed as much to a series of set of circumstances as any massive collective failing. Chelsea actually had the better of the first half, but still found themselves three goals down. It was due

to some appalling individual mistakes, but, perhaps, too, they suffered because of a tactical error by Gullit.

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And that was that. With Vieira the best player in midfield, the only surprise was that Arsenal did not score more goals. Merson missed the best chance of the lot when Whelan took a cross away from Miller and feed him up. It hardly mattered. "Arsenal were comfortable," Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, said.

And with the arrival of Arsène Wenger to come, "The dawning of a new era," Rice said. "Let us hope so."

MIDDLESBROUGH (3-2-3-1): M Wright, D Murray, S Bailey (sub: P Stamp), Mini P, T. Thompson, N Barnes (sub: J Brancatelli, 89), E. Emerson, L. Johnson, C. O'Connor, N. Barnes, J. Juninho — F. Ravanelli.

ARSENAL (4-4-2): K. Hitzchock — D. Paterson, S. O'Brien, P. C. S. C. Ayers, N. Spencer, A. H. D. Barnes, R. Di Matteo, G. W. H. — G. Vaas, M. Hughes

Referee: S Dunn

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Lazaridis flies flag for United nations

Nottingham Forest 0
West Ham United 2

By RICHARD HOBSON

NO MANAGER has done more for international relations than Harry Redknapp, who is planting West Ham United's claret and blue flag into foreign soils with the zeal of a Victorian explorer.

"It is amazing where you can find players these days," he said. "If George Weah can come out of a place like Liberia, there must be footballers in every part of the world waiting to be found."

Shorn of his Czech, Portuguese and one of his two Romanians on Saturday, Redknapp still managed to field representatives of six countries against Nottingham Forest at the City Ground. All have schooled in football's common language and this time an Australian, born of a Greek father, took the eye.

Star Lazaridis, playing on the left wing, created the first goal when he crossed for Bowen at the post a minute before half-time and gave Forest the runaround all afternoon. Although essentially left-footed, he revealed the ability to turn inside or out in a fashion similar to Steve Heighway, the former Liverpool winger.

West Ham stumbled across Lazaridis, 23, when he played against them for West Adelaide on an end-of-season tour of Australia in 1995. Redknapp said: "I rang Frank Lampard

and said, 'I've got a player who can play for you.'

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (3-4-2-1): M. Wright, J. Lewis, S. Moore, S. P. Johnson, D. Phillips, J. Wootton, C. Akers — D. Saunders, B. Rice.

WEST HAM UNITED (3-5-2): S. Marzouq, J. D. Phillips, S. Bilo, J. D. Dowd, M. Hughes, I. Bohm (sub: F. Lycett, 86), J. Marquez, S. Lazaridis — T. Corcoran (sub: T. Corcoran, 54), I. Dowe, G. Wilson.

Referee: G. Wilson

Middlesbrough 0
Arsenal 2

By PETER BALL

AS IF to remind the new regime being introduced at Highbury yesterday, the Arsenal old guard, with the help of Middlesbrough's defensive ineptitude, showed at the Riverside Stadium on Saturday that it is still alive and kicking in the FA Carling Premiership.

"It's back to the old Arsenal," one of their travelling fans with a laptop in the press box said admiringly. Indeed it was. There is no joy about Arsenal's football — they go into battle with teeth and fists clenched and studs showing. It is war rather than the beautiful game.

Pat Rice, who has enjoyed a 100 per cent record as their caretaker manager, referred back to the days of Storey as typifying the spirit of the

world. Rice, of course, was a member of that team and has come up with that ethos.

"When they lost it wasn't like a defeat, it was a catastrophe, it hurt them so much," Rice said.

On Saturday, that spirit was

incarnated in Adams.

"He's an inspirational player for the Arsenal," Rice said.

"He was bursting to come on today, he was like a stallion that's been caged up, and all of a sudden, he's free."

Adams came

FOOTBALL: CUTTING EDGE LACKING IN STALEMATE BETWEEN TEAMS WITH EUROPE ON THEIR MINDS

United finish with little to show

Aston Villa 0
 Manchester United 0
 By ROB HUGHES
 FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

HOW one pined for a Berger at half-time at Villa Park on Saturday. This is not a dig at the culinary hospitality of Doug Ellis, the Aston Villa chairman, but rather praise for the imported cutting edge of Patrik Berger, the Czech Republic player who put Chelsea to the sword with his left foot at Anfield.

In contrast, the 39,359 spectators packed so expectantly into Aston Villa's stadium knew from very early on that the 14 foreign individuals representing eight nationalities, and two of the most accomplished sides in England, simply could not or would not fashion a goal between them.

Manchester United, unbeaten in the FA Carling Premiership but having drawn four of their seven games, were not remotely in the form that brought four goals in each of their past two league outings. They created the clearer chances — both Giggs and the

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 Craven images 31

substitute, Cole, struck the frame of the goal — yet this was a tactical stalemate in the month of September when, as the Villa manager, Brian Little, observed, clubs are having to play seven matches and the international players among them are flying here and there to add to their workload.

Yet it had started with excellence. Ole Gunnar Solskjær, the Norwegian of the face of a choirboy, was preferred in the United attack to Cole, who must now be considered a £7 million reserve. Solskjær, with a turn of pace and cunning to deceive Ehiogu, whetted the appetite early on. And Southgate, improving month by month as the central player in a three-man Villa defence, demonstrated that players at the back can also use the body and the mind pleasingly: his deft control on the left side, followed instantly by his ability to bring the ball out and convert defence into attack, would have lit up the countenance of the England coach, Glenn Hoddle.

Those early executions of high skill were to be as good as it got. Cantona initially showed a willing-

ness to vary United's tactics by dropping deep to the right flank and ushering Beckham in-field. But it was not to last; Cantona became anonymous.

It was left to younger and less gifted individuals to try to put vigour into the finish. In the second minute, Jordi Cruyff, who once again looked painfully ungifted compared with his father, did oblige Michael Oakes, the goalkeeping son of a father who also played League football with distinction, to twist in the air and tip over a rising shot.

But Cruyff, later to be replaced by Poborsky, performed with more vigour than craft. The match around him grew fitful, the defences marshalled by Southgate and Pallister became comfortable masters. Beckham showed the frustration and a dangerous side of his temperament when he retaliated to a slight push from Staunton by grabbing the Irishman by the scruff of the neck, to incur one of the four yellow cards by which Stephen Lodge maintained control.

In such a match, the referee needed all the help and all the eyes he could call upon. Thankfully, this was one exception to the season when the referee, and linesmen we are being urged to call referees' assistants, produced their own teamwork splendidly. The booking for Keane, for a body-check on Draper away from the ball, was justified. The ruling out of a shot by Yorke, for a combination of offside and handball, was again the result of a linesman's alertness.

But, with the inertness of the play still inviting spectators to take note of the arbiter's control, it was encouraging in the extreme the way Lodge maintained the flow of the game yet kept his grip. Ten minutes from time, for example, he saw Milosevic — big, willing but profligate with Villa's chances — crudely bring down Beckham. The official quelled Beckham's irate reaction, allowed Manchester United to try to profit from possession for fully two minutes and then quietly, calmly, walked up to Milosevic and issued his yellow card.

The exchanges between the players — Manchester United in yet another new colour, this time wearing white shirts and black shorts — remained controlled by defences. Pallister made an exceptional intervention, a challenge that used the extremes of his long legs when Milosevic dithered in the penalty box. At the other end,



Keane slides in with typical aggression to challenge Curic at Villa Park. Photograph: Ian Stewart

Southgate time and again read the play ... but when he did not, Cole, having by now replaced Solskjær, met a splendid cross from Giggs, beat Oakes with his header but was denied by the width of the crossbar.

Giggs, one on one with Oakes, had earlier shot straight at the goal keeper, the ball rising off the body of Oakes against the post.

Villa, in reply, came no closer than an attempt at villainy. Sasa Curic, such a pleasing, direct

player, attempted to steal a penalty when he dived to the ground, claiming ridiculously that Raimond van der Gouw, the United goalkeeping making his debut in place of Schmeichel, who will be fit for the European Cup Champions League on Wednesday after a stomach bug, had fouled him. There was no contact. The skills Curic brings from Belgrade are most welcome, the habits of gamesmanship are not. But, into Europe,

Helsingborgs of Sweden, playing host to Villa, and Rapid Vienna, visiting Old Trafford, are the next challengers to two teams who could not finish their approach work in the Midlands on Saturday.

ASTON VILLA (3-4-1-2): M Oakes — U Ehiogu, G Souness, S Stančić — F Nelson, A Townsend, M Draper, A Wright — S Curic (sub: T Taylor, D Yorke); M United (4-4-1-1): R van der Gouw — G Neville, R Johnson, G Paffett, D Inman — D Beckham, R Keane, R Giggs — J Cruyff (sub: K Poborsky, 78) — E Cantona — J Solskjær (sub: S Lodge).

Cut-price imports threaten disaster for domestic game

STEVE McMANAMAN



On the negative side of overseas trade

The visit of Chelsea's high profile foreign legion of players to Anfield on Saturday seemed to raise more questions than it answered. Before the game, people were saying that Liverpool would test just how well they had really fitted into English football and it's true that we felt we could put them under a bit more pressure than they had experienced up to this point. That was how it turned out, but I do not think it would be fair to judge how they coped because the game just got away from Chelsea, and you cannot blame the foreign players for that.

Overseas players coming into the English game has become a big issue now that the Bosman ruling has swept away the restrictions limiting their numbers. I think that is why there was so much interest in Chelsea's imports would do at Anfield.

The game was played at a terrific pace, there wasn't much space to operate in and I got the impression Chelsea's new boys found that a bit suffocating. It's rare on the Continent for such a high tempo to be maintained throughout the game and they are still adapting. Of the three, Leboeuf impressed me with his passing skills, but Vialli and Di Matteo never really got into the game — or, more accurately, were never allowed to. They were getting frustrated, Vialli especially so, and were not seen in their best light.

It is clear, though, that they have done well this season and it can only be good for the English game to have players like Vialli over here. They bring so much with them, in terms of knowledge and technique, that can be copied by English professionals. Youngsters, too, are excited by the arrival of big-name players. They want to be like their heroes and it is no bad thing if they are trying to copy Juninho or Ravanelli.

But we are talking here about a handful of stars and what worries me immensely — what worries a lot of people in this game — is the rush of cheap imports that we have witnessed over the past few months. There is a real danger that such a trend could be disastrous. It is something that we must look into quickly.

The English transfer system has spiralled out of control and so managers are looking abroad, where they can buy World Cup players at a fraction of the cost of English players from the Nationwide League first and second divisions.

Yet squads are getting full of them. At the moment, it feels as if clubs are buying any one journeyman on the strength of a video and it leaves little room for the young, home-grown players to come through. If we don't get the best youngsters then it can only have a disastrous effect on our game.

When I was a junior at Liverpool, it was an exciting time because all the kids were given a great chance of making the grade — I got into the first team at 18 — but now I'm not so sure if it is happening and that can be disheartening. Liverpool and Manchester United went to great

lengths to find the best young English players because of the five foreigners rule in European competition. Bosman has removed that and what do we see? It is no coincidence that United went out and bought five foreign players, while even Liverpool's only summer signing was from abroad.

Nobody can argue with the quality of players like Patrik Berger, but there have been a lot of others who are not up to the grade. They come, take the money and then frequently fail, but it doesn't matter because they just move on and another takes their place. This whole process is stifling the development of the English game.

The Italian League has plenty of imports, but they are the best — the top English, Dutch and Germans. You do not see any cut-price signings from overseas ending up in Italy, but it seems to be the norm over here. There will be no easy solution until the English transfer market comes back to realistic levels, but what clubs must not do is ignore their youth structures, just because they can fill their squads with competent, cheap foreign imports. It might save money in the short term, but, in the long term, it is a recipe for disaster.

On a slightly different note, we had a rest last week while other sides played in the Coca-Cola Cup — a relief after the number of games that we have played since the start of the season — and as we prepare to go into Europe this week and other FA Carling Premiership sides face the second legs of their Coca-Cola Cup ties, a thought strikes me: instead of having two legs, why not just keep it a simple knockout, like the FA Cup? That way, it would reduce the burden of games and give players a free week.

I know the lower-division sides enjoy their games against the top clubs, but we could still ensure that they continue to do so by seeding the draw to guarantee them a home fixture against a bigger club. Everybody would be happy and it would give the smaller clubs a better chance, because surely it would be easier for them to beat opponents from a higher division if there were not a return leg.

Ferguson rightly punished for football's curse

Blackburn Rovers 1
 Everton 1

By MARK HODKINSON

THE machismo of football is such that Duncan Ferguson will find his reputation enhanced by his deeds at Ewood Park on Saturday. With three minutes of a disjointed match remaining, Ferguson chose to develop Tourette syndrome and began to issue a stream of profanities.

David Elleray, the referee,

booked him for the first utterance, and, when he refused to relent a minute later, sent him off.

Joe Royle, the Everton manager, defended his striker, claiming victimisation. 'Is the ref trying to tell us that Duncan was the only player out there who swore today?

'I intend to make my feelings known. There is an industrial language in football and I'm very unhappy about this. People will be talking about Duncan for the wrong reasons. I don't think he's committed a foul all season,' he said.

It is well known that Elleray and swearing are, so to speak, sworn enemies. Last week he sent off Sunderland's Richard Ord for the same offence. Like most referees, Elleray can be dogmatic but, if the Scotsman's language was a notch or two above industrial strength, Elleray's response was just and not without dash of heroism. Too often players swear and complain. We want to see skills and passion from the feet, not the tongue.

Ferguson's antics at least provided spice to a bland game between two teams determined to play

themselves patiently back into winning form, or non-winning form. The first gilded chance fell to Ferguson but he fired straight at Ferguson.

Georgios Donis had no such problem. The Greek moved swiftly through Everton's defence and deposited the ball defiantly into their net. Ray Harford, the Blackburn manager, later referred to it as a 'terrific' goal and to Donis as an 'icing on the cake' player.

Everton responded immediately. Hinchcliffe's powerful left foot drilled a free kick into the penalty area and Unswoorth deflected it

from his forehead into the net. Kanchelskis had an absorbing duel with Berg but his finishing did not match his pace on the two occasions he dodged his marker. He mis-hit when put through by Rideout and failed to avoid Flowers as he ran in on goal with the Blackburn defence trailing.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-4-2): T Flowers — J Keane, C Hendry, C Corlett, H Berg — G Bone, S Smith, G Hendry, G Pilkington (sub: G Agnew) — K Gallacher (sub: G Fenton, 79), G Sutton

EVERTON (4-3-3): N Southall — E Barber, C Speed, A Lampard (sub: T Grant, 88) — A Kanchelskis, D Ferguson, P Rideout. Referee: D Elleray.

Sparkle fades on Atkinson regime

Sunderland 1
 Coventry City 0

By IVO TENNANT

FOR A man whose reputation is based on a ready josh, bubbly drinks and glistening jewellery, Ron Atkinson is a tetchy man these days. He still looks himself — the suntan is permanent and his jackets are as garish as ever — but this masks an air of unease. He presides over a club that looks ripe for relegation.

Last season Coventry City remained in the FA Carling

Premiership, is beyond him at Coventry.

It would make sense to quit.

He has said that this ought to be his last season, and that

Gordon Strachan, his knowledgeable assistant, should have the chance to succeed him.

There is media work to fall back on, a sense of humour to be resurrected.

Where is the thrill in managing Coventry when you have known Manchester United and Atlético Madrid?

Coventry were dire on Saturday: Atkinson said so himself. 'In the first half we were terrible. We did not drive the game hard enough, did not make enough things happen.'

Whatever the reckoning of Peter Reid, Atkinson's counterpart at Sunderland, who is not overly concerned with spectacle, this was a very poor match. If Coventry were appalling, Sunderland were not a great deal better, even if Agnew's goal was chested down and volleyed in with splendid assurance.

Coventry managed little by way of riposte. Telfer, Dublin and Whelan all had their chances and all put them wide. Sunderland should have scored again in the last minute but Russell, substituting for Quinn, who will have a scan on knee ligament trouble today, ran out of puff when nearing goal.

Orzivovic, the Coventry

goalkeeper, was stranded, almost comically, at the other end of the pitch. Such light relief had been a long time in coming.

SUNDERLAND (3-5-2): A O'Brien — P McEvilly, P Clark, M Evans, S Agnew, P Stewart, N Dunn (sub: C Russell, 40min)

COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2): S Orzivovic — B Barrow, R Shaw (sub: E Jess, 89), L Dales (sub: M Hall, 50), D Burns — K Richardson, C Hendry, P Teller, J Saks

— N Wilson, D Dublin.

Premiership on goal difference. They collected the same number of points as Manchester City and, although they are evidently in nothing like the same predicament now, they appear to be a team with few redeeming features. Money thrown at them seems to be money thrown away.

Atkinson deserves better than this, for he, and his teams, have always entertained. Come November, he will have had 22 years in football management. He has little left to prove and the achievement that he would

Barber blows the whistle on Derby

Sheffield Wednesday 0
 Derby County 0

By PAT GIBSON

IT IS not going to be long now before some enterprising advertising agency realises that, rather than having their clients' names on footballers' shirts, they could get far better value by putting them on those garish new outfits which have destroyed the notion that the best referees are those who go unnoticed.

Opinions, for example,

endorsed by men who can see things that thousands of other people cannot, pencil-makers produce their products by invertebrate scribblers who never seem to need a sharpener.

Once again at Hillsborough on Saturday, a disgruntled crowd went home talking not of the outstanding players, whose skills they had enjoyed, but of a man whom they had never previously heard of and, what is more, did not want to hear of again.

They were not alone. David Pleat and Jim Smith, the managers of Sheffield Wednesday and Derby County, respectively, could not avoid the fact that Graham Barber's performance in booking nine players — three from Wednesday and six from Derby — had overshadowed anything that their teams could produce.

'We are not making any comment about the refereeing,' Pleat said, before coming up with a classic put-down. 'Everyone needs time and this was only his third game in the Premiership.' That brought a chuckle from Smith, who added: 'And it could be his last. The refereeing was absolutely average.'

Barber, who has taken ten

points from their first seven games, should have had two more but Gabbiaudi headed against the bar in the first minute and Daily failed to beat Pressman from close range three minutes from the end. Wednesday's only real chance had come when Hirst hit a post in the 30th minute.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-4-2): K Pressman — P Atherton, D Walker, D Stoenescu, J Nolan — G Whittingham, G Hyde, M Pemberton (sub: D Trustill), S Smith, C Bell, S Dakic (sub: D Dakic, 64min) — K Gallacher (sub: G Fenton, 79), G Sutton

DERBY COUNTY (3-5-2): R Houli — G Rowett, I Stansfield, P Parker — I Lauson, L Cooper, C Bell, M McNamee, C Powell — D Sargeant, C Lumb (sub: P Simpson, 89), M Gabbiadini (sub: A Ward, 77)

Referee: G Barber.

Donnelly puts case for development

KEVIN McCARRA

Scottish commentary

In the spring of 1994, Donnelly was introduced to the side as a forward, and the crowd doted on him. The manager of the time, Lou Macari, compared him with the young Kenny Dalglish,

but that is a compliment of great weight and Donnelly appeared burdened by it. The manager is hardly to be blamed for deciding that Paolo Di Canio, the former AC Milan winger, who scored twice on Saturday, would have more impact than the young Glasgow-born alternative — no talk of long-term planning will provide any defence for him should Rangers

have more impact on the wing.

FOOTBALL

Sheron bounces back to strike the decisive blow

Stoke City 3
Huddersfield Town 2

By RICHARD HOBSON

ON THE evidence of the first 45 minutes of play at the Victoria Ground yesterday, Mike Sheron was an unlikely hero. Huddersfield Town were ahead and cruising and the Stoke City striker could barely find a colleague with a pass from six yards.

He was not having a good day, yet it was he who had the last laugh, scoring twice in the last 20 minutes, including Stoke's winner six minutes from time, lifting his team into fourth place in the Nationwide League first division. They meet the leaders, Bolton Wanderers, at Burnden Park next Saturday.

Sheron now has eight goals to his credit this season, but Stoke's success also owed a good deal to his cushioned header go between his own goalkeeper after Marcus Stewart had crossed harmlessly.

Stoke did fight back and Kavanagh had a strong effort parried away and a header cleared off the line by Makel, while Sheron volleyed over the bar from close range, but it was Stewart, with an instinctive shot that sneaked in off the far post, who scored next to the far post, who scored next to

resolve and deserved to pick up this great result."

The home side went behind after just seven minutes with a goal that bore a striking resemblance to Andy Myers's header into his own net at Liverpool on Saturday, a moment Chelsea would have preferred not to have been granted star billing on *Match of the Day*. This time, it was Nigel Worthington who suf-

fered the ignominy of seeing his cushioned header go be-

tween his own goalkeeper after Marcus Stewart had crossed harmlessly.

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Rioch content with low-profile start

Queens Park Rangers 1
Swindon Town 1

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

FOOTBALL knows no bounds for the incomprehensible, the ridiculous, the downright bizarre. Events at Queens Park Rangers last week started off straightforward enough, with Stewart Houston installed as successor to Ray Wilkins. On Friday, the twist in the tail was revealed, with Bruce Rioch announced as the assistant manager.

Thus, any self-respecting fly on the wall would have paid a handsome price to have earwigged the pre-match team-talk at Loftus Road on Saturday, before QPR's Nationwide League first division match against Swindon Town, when Houston, former No 2 at Arsenal and now No 1 at QPR, and Rioch, former No 1 at Arsenal and now No 2 at QPR, attempted to define their bewildering role reversal.

How did Rioch, so long the lead man and only once an assistant, for a two-month spell at Middlesbrough ten years ago, react to having to take a back seat? How did Houston, so long the nearly man and twice a caretaker at Arsenal, cope with his elevation? Was it not just a shade, awkward?

Apparently, not. "Bruce and I shared most things at Arsenal, it was that sort of partnership," Houston said. "I really don't think it will be that different here."

Rioch's participation was, understandably, limited. He had not seen a training session and, presumably, barely recognised some of the QPR youngsters who had to play

because of a glut of injuries at Loftus Road. It was a low-key introduction. At least Houston had the benefit of having witnessed the 2-1 win against Swindon at the County Ground last Wednesday, in a Coca-Cola Cup second-round, first-leg tie.

It was his first match in charge, his first as a fully-fledged manager, and it reached a satisfactory conclusion. Saturday, almost predictably, proved less invigorating.

QPR, eager to impress yet short on ideas, did their best in an honourable draw. Cowe splendidly drove Swindon ahead in the 25th minute, in the second of the three league-and-cup meetings between the sides in eight days, and Murray equalised smartly two minutes later. Plenty of huff and puff, a petty 17-man skirmish near the end and contentment in most quarters.

Rioch, diplomatically, chose a low profile. Virtually unseen, certainly unheard. It was Houston, as befits a No 1, who faced the inquisitors. "There was a lot of expectation and, with so many youngsters in, it was a bit of an effort for them," he admitted.

"I can understand why people have been flabbergasted at Bruce coming here, but he's a great asset. It was my choice to bring him in, absolutely, and I don't really find it that odd. I feel quite comfortable with it and Bruce does as well."

QUEENS PARK RANGERS (3-5-2): J Sommer, C Plummer (sub: M Graham), 72min), A McDonald, R Bennett, M Baines, P Parker, P Parker, B Baines, M Braizer, A Ivey, T Smedley, D Doherty.

SWINDON TOWN (5-3-2): F Tait, F Dernie (sub: P Allen), 57), I Culverhouse, M Sutcliffe, P Parker, B Baines, W Bell, M D'Urso, S Linton, M Waters, M Allen, S Cowe.

Referee: P Reyer

Pretenders underline maturing potential

Slough Town 2
Hednesford Town 2

By WALTER GAMMIE

A MATCH full of spirited, attacking football at Wexham Park on Saturday served notice that the Vauxhall Conference title race should prove rather less procession than in recent seasons.

Slough showed their resilience to come from a goal down twice against the impressive Hednesford side and suggest their early challenge will not dissolve this season.

Brian McDermott, the Slough manager, said: "When we play to our potential, which we haven't been for the past three or four weeks, we will start winning matches again."

Mark West and Gary Abbott illustrated their menace up front with Slough's second equaliser, in the 61st minute. Abbott collected an awkward bouncing ball, swerved off on a run and beat up Bolt for a

Feel-good factor fuels Fulham's revival

JULIAN HERBERT

Keith Pike discovers that defeat cannot dampen the optimism at Craven Cottage

Typical. Just when you thought it was safe to start talking about a Fulham revival, they come up with a performance like this. A glorious late summer afternoon by the Thames, and it transpires that all that sweetness and light was just another false dawn.

If it takes something special to make Mansfield Town look like world-beaters, Fulham were spectacularly good in losing 2-1 on Saturday. Outpassed, out-fought, out-maneuvered, they were trounced, never mind the narrow margin of defeat by a team they were expected to brush aside.

All in all, it was just like old times. And that, of course, is part of their charm. Dear old Fulham — is there a football fan who does not have a soft spot for the club where Bobby Moore finished his playing days, where Best and Marsh were paired, where the players still change in a cottage? Eccentrics, quaint ... a team to be taken apart on occasions, but never to be taken seriously.

It is an image that Micky Adams, at 35 one of the youngest managers in the game with one of the more demanding tasks, would love to dispel, and he has not made a bad start. "We are still top of the league," was the Adams mantra at the end of a hugely disappointing day in which he conceded that Fulham deserved nothing. "Look at the table and we're still there.

Still top, and rightly so." Given the severity of Fulham's decline, being top of the Nationwide League third division has much to commend it.

Can Adams succeed where so many have failed? The fact that the club has now won the right to redevelop Craven Cottage means, he believes, that he has a fighting chance. "There is a feel-good factor about being a Fulham fan again," Adams said. "They have got the go-ahead for the ground means there has not been such optimism here since 1975 [Fulham's Cup Final year]."

It is strange to think that,

only seven months ago, the club was in a state of turmoil.

were 5,700 here today. They would not keep coming back if we were playing rubbish."

It was a view confirmed by Chris Wheeler — season ticket-holder, life-long supporter and false-dawn phobic — as Fulham fell from grace after their best start to the season for a quarter of a century. "Getting planning permission for the ground means there have got the go-ahead for the ground and a team prepared to have a go. It was also a big plus for the players. But the fans are not daft. They want a winning team, too. There

victories were scarce, crowds sparse and the terrace knives were out for Ian Branfoot, whose move "upstairs" to become general manager gave Adams his opportunity. "We have made progress," Adams said. "I have got long-term plans for the club and myself. We'll see whether the club's ambition matches mine. Fulham is a big club. No disrespect to the likes of Mansfield, Rochdale and Scarborough, but they come here to the capital, with a big crowd and a magnificent stadium compared with what they've got, and they raise their game."

The neater, hungrier side. Mansfield registered their first win with goals in the 39th minute from Hadley, after a corner, and the 99th, from Harper, after another defensive blunder. Morgan's reply, ten seconds from time, was an afterthought to a day that perhaps revealed a team's deficiencies but a club's strength.

FULHAM (3-4-1-2): M Walton — D Cullip (sub: R McNeely), M Stewart, A. Andrade, P. Parker, G. Sutcliffe (sub: R. Scobie), S. Morgan, R. Hearn — N. Cusack — M. Conroy, D. Freeman (sub: P. Brooker), M. Sturman, S. Linton, M. Waters — M. Allen, W. Hadley — B. Saenger, J. Walker, D. Kerr (sub: S. Harper), S. Hadley, M. Sutcliffe.

Referee: A. Bates.



Although looking forward to a brighter future, Fulham supporters can only watch as their team lose on Saturday

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TENNIS

Short-sighted LTA overlooks Lloyd as chief executive

By DAVID MILLER

THE British have a debilitating, perverse activity, in sport, for scorning unusually talented coaches and administrators. Heaven knows, we need them enough, yet our governing bodies, over-endowed with backwoodsmen elected anonymously from the counties, come out in a nervous rash at the thought of anybody with conspicuous qualities who might expose their own limitations and falsely-assumed security.

Geoff Dyson, in athletics, and George Raynor, in football, were driven abroad in the Fifties and Sixties. The Football Association schemed to reject Walter Winterbottom, the world-renowned coach, as general secretary and elected instead Denis Follows, a former rugby-school master, who in turn prevented Sir Stanley Rous, even more renowned, from becoming FA chairman. Bobby Moore, sadly, was never considered for any job.

The athletics establishment so resented Frank Dick and David Shaw, outstanding coach and administrator respectively, that each eventually fled elsewhere. And will rowing exploit to the full the fame enjoyed by Steve Redgrave? I doubt it.

The all-comers' record for myopia, however, has been held unchallenged for 50 years by the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA), the equivalent of a chicken farm that never managed to lay an egg. In the next few weeks, it will be revealed



Lloyd: inner fire

that the LTA, guided by head-hunting advisers, has contrived to resist appointing as its new chief executive the most exceptional candidate any sport has ever had.

David Lloyd, the former Davis Cup player and subsequently coach and business entrepreneur with a record remarkable by any standard, is captain of the British team that has just climbed another rung on the Davis Cup ladder.

It takes more than the young Tim Henman to make tennis nationally important, never mind that the LTA has a budget of £40 million per annum. Lloyd could have been the man to revolutionise a moribund game, yet although the LTA summoned the nerve to appoint their sternest critic as captain — a 30-days-a-year job, maximum — the prospect of making him chief of staff

was, presumably, too frightening.

Frightened everyone Lloyd would, for sure. His biography reveals every aspect of a driven man: A player of moderate ability, compared with his brother, John, but almost demonic self-motivation, he responded to the financial and imaginative bankruptcy of a game locked in outdated middle-class contentment, by creating a chain of modern leisure centres so socially innovative and successful that in the past year Lloyd sold out to Whitbread for £180 million.

Along the way, having for years been exasperated by the uncompetitive provincialism of British coaching, Lloyd joined forces with the financier, Jim Slater, to create a juniors' scheme that found and helped to develop Henman. That, too, was more than the LTA could stomach.

To have now made Lloyd

successor to Ian Peacock as chief executive would be to overthrow instantly the entire national coaching structure, together with the soporific administrative policies of the traditional clubs: the *laissez-faire* which has denied Britain a grand-slam or Davis Cup title since Fred Perry's days.

Lloyd has much of that channelled inner fire which drove Perry. A suspect backhand meant that he could never be a champion on court, though he is famously remembered for a superhuman Davis Cup doubles performance against Italy in the Seventies that turned a crisis, two matches down and two sets and a match point down in the doubles, into an exhilarating victory. "Today," wrote Rex Bellamy, of *The Times*, on the morning of the reverse singles, "Italy will remember yesterday." They did.

It would be unfair to say that the LTA under Peacock made no ground. There are 800 indoor courts compared with 150 when he was appointed ten years ago, and training centres in 26 cities. The LTA spends £6 million per annum on training and coaching, £6 million on grass roots and £8 million on facilities. A lot, perhaps, for little reward, though in successive years, Britain's juniors have distinguished themselves in the under-14 world championships.

Leading foreign coaches have been hired, such as Ian Barclay, Peter Fleming and Olga Morozova.

Yet Lloyd would still intend radically to overhaul the coaching structure: decentralising and demanding the same hours and dedication in the creation of his leisure empire, dismissing the idle and advising the lesser players, sympathetically but objectively, not to waste their time.

The LTA under Lloyd would have experienced the brutal management and reorganisation it still requires. It had not the courage to take the risk. Not to the game, but its own structures. It is wholly wrong that the perceived "future" of British tennis is being irrelevantly loaded on to the slim shoulders of one promising young player, instead of on the imaginative energy of a driven man with a dream already fulfilled once in the private sector.

Lloyd claims the possibilities are endless — Petchey and Broad, Henman and Broad, Rusedski and Broad, or the unfriendly pairing of Henman and Rusedski. When suggested, the latter did not seem to fill Henman with glee and would also leave Lloyd with a two-man team with which to take on the world. If Britain are seeded and receive a bye in the first round, Lloyd at least has until April to solve the problem.

With or without Austria in their group next year, Britain are likely to be seeded, which could leave them just two matches away from the world group. In order to get past the higher-ranked opposition, Lloyd needs to find a reliable doubles team. On Saturday, Petchey looked to be ill at ease throughout, leaving Broad to do most of the work until the final set.

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easy. Whether Austria is among their number remains to be seen. They lost their world group qualifying tie to Brazil after Thomas Muster was defaulted and, although the Austria team could have used a replacement for the remaining singles yesterday, they simply refused to play, handing the tie to Brazil 4-1. Depending on the outcome of a meeting of the Davis Cup Committee on October 7, Austria could be punished with further demotion to group four.

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He came, he scored, he conquered — and left

A year is a long time in the Premiership. Alex Fynn, co-author of a new book, opens a series by revealing how Tottenham Hotspur won and lost Jürgen Klinsmann, the German who was the darling of English football for one memorable season

To compound Ossie Ardiles's first catastrophic season in charge the summer of 1994 saw the Football Association impose swing penalties on Tottenham for supposed financial irregularities over a period of years prior to chairman Alan Sugar's arrival. It had been Sugar, himself, who had exposed the bulk of these irregularities — which mainly took the form of undclared "loans" to players. Sugar co-operated in the Premier League and FA investigations, in the belief that such co-operation would result in lenient treatment. This proved to be wishful thinking.

The FA clobbered Tottenham to a degree without precedent among the so-called big clubs: a fine of £600,000; a docking of 12 points for the next season, and a ban from the 1994-95 FA Cup competition.

Sugar took the matter as a personal slight, and his legal team set about getting the penalties overturned. Success was partial, with a halving of the points deficit from 12 to six, which at least lifted the threat of almost certain relegation for the year ahead. But the fine was increased to £1.5 million, and the FA Cup ban stood.

While two sets of lawyers locked horns before eventually agreeing to abide by the findings of an independent tribunal, Sugar snapped into action. No way was he going to allow the FA to scupper his season as punishment for crimes committed by others. They could take away his points, but they could not take away his money — well only a fraction of it. Ossie was given a budget for new players and promptly scooped two of the genuine superstars of world football. First in, for £2.5 million, came Ilie Dumitrescu, a hero of Romania's World Cup campaign and, in particular, their victory over Argentina. Next, word reached Sugar that Jürgen Klinsmann — a striker so famous that even Sugar had heard of him — was out of contract and up for grabs. Another two million quid.

Sugar knew that signing the German World Cup star, to go with Dumitrescu, would be a massive boost to the club and also to his own personal standing with the fans and within the game. If it also told the FA where they could stick their fine, points deduction and FA Cup ban, then so much the better.

Although foreign imports were now an accepted part of the English league's make-up, Klinsmann would represent, without doubt, the biggest coup yet. For possibly the first time ever, England's top division was able to compete with the Continental giants for the superstars of world football. Not only was the money available in never-before-seen amounts (through sponsorship, TV and merchandising), but also the Premiership had gained international credibility, helped in no small measure by the increasing number of countries who were taking live television feeds of the weekly action.

The experience might even prove to be instructive for the glamorous imports, as a competitive edge would have to be added to even a virtuoso's repertoire as a prerequisite to Premiership survival. Wages for short-term contracts could be spectacular. Hefty signing-on fees could provide a tolerable cushion against a lifestyle that might compare unfavourably with those in more hedonistic Barcelona, Milan or Monaco.

Prospective signings could be assured of favourable media attention and lucrative commercial opportunities. A year or two in London (or Manchester) was not that bad a prospect and any on-field success would be on a stage closely monitored throughout the football world.

Klinsmann had, in fact, been wooed by Bayern Munich during and after the 1994 World Cup. However, his opinion of his own worth proved an insurmountable barrier to the fallen German giants. "He had," according to Franz Beckenbauer, the Bayern president, "salary demands that we could not meet."

Most clubs in Europe would have gladly signed Klinsmann, but very few were prepared to compromise their prevailing wage structure by accepting terms that so demonstrably favoured the player. Besides, to return to Bayern for the 1994-95 season would once again mean working under Italian coach, Giovanni Trapattoni, with whom Klinsmann had already fallen out during their spell together at Inter Milan.

The contract that formed the agreement between Jürgen Klinsmann and Spurs was a testament to the relative positions of both parties. Spurs wanted Klinsmann badly. Klinsmann could afford to dictate outrageous take-it-or-leave-it terms knowing that, sooner or later, he would get exactly what he was asking from someone.

For a start, he proposed no more than a two-year contract. This was born from his bitter experience at Monaco, where he clashed with the tactical approach of the coach, Arsene Wenger, to the extent that the German striker felt he had wasted a valuable final year there. Although he felt that the Spurs manager, Ossie Ardiles, would be a kindred spirit on the way the game should be played, Klinsmann could not allow himself to become trapped again.

Any contract would have an earlier "get-out" clause to exercise should he feel the need. A further clause favoured by Klinsmann stipulated that any club that sold him would have to do so for no more than their initial purchase price: a ploy that enabled Klinsmann to move on continually at increasingly favourable terms.

Sugar was surely mindful of the potential for disruption that anyone earning £1 million a year could wreak on his existing squad. Nevertheless, he was adamant he would get his man. A compromise deal was thrashed out where Klinsmann's wages were a relatively modest £7,000 per week, but a "London living" allowance and a hefty signing-on fee brought the total annual remuneration to around £1 million and, hence, led to the widely-reported £23,000 per week figure. Klinsmann was happy for the media to perpetuate the myth of his superstar salary, while Sugar was honour-bound to preserve his player's ego.

And so Jürgen Klinsmann signed for Sugar and for Spurs.

And the move was everything that Sugar could have hoped (and even dreamed). The media went crazy, and amid a flurry of bad puns ("Jürgen King! Herr-fied Jürgen Klin! Klin the money! Our Herr-of Now Jürgen-a believe us! I've stukka one in! Klin with a shout! Klinsmann was born! Jürgen's easy-going attitude, perfect English and non-clichéd soundbites had the media over the moon and eating out of his hand. Home fans queued to have his



Despite the personal terms agreed with Sugar, Klinsmann soon endeared himself to the Tottenham fans. His goalscoring celebration was widely imitated



name spelt across the back of their replica shirts, while Klinsmann Hotspur on the road became the country's all-ticket top draw (Spurs at Elland Road in October attracted a bigger crowd than the FA Cup semi-final at the same ground six months later).

On the pitch, Jürgen smashed a personal best of 29 goals that season (and was hugely instrumental in Teddy Sheringham's not-inconsiderable tally of 23). Bar one game at Goodison Park, which

intention of seeing out the remaining year of his contract. Worryingly, he would not do so, amid speculation, and soon confirmation, that Franz Beckenbauer had earmarked his countryman to become the final piece in the restructured Bayern Munich jigsaw.

Since his accession to Bayern's presidency in November 1994, Beckenbauer had instilled a realistic appreciation of the cost of assembling a team capable of

on fee — terms that almost doubled the German's earnings at White Hart Lane. Perhaps more important was that Bayern, under Beckenbauer, had determined to do exactly what Alan Sugar wanted to do at Tottenham — build a championship-winning side. However, unlike Tottenham, Bayern were not prepared to sacrifice a transitional season. With a new coach, Otto Rehhagel — who had failed to win by one point the title for Werder Bremen when his new club beat them in the last game of the season — the signals were clear: a revitalised Bayern with Klinsmann in attack, alongside new signings Sridz, Sforza and Herzog, together

joying a resurgence that saw average crowds exceed 30,000 and boast a strength in depth that surpassed the Premiership's league-within-a-league hierarchy.

Just about every member of the national side was now back playing league football in Germany after their dalliances with overseas clubs. Add the attraction of finishing his career on home ground, plus the thinly-veiled assurances given by Beckenbauer that Jürgen would have a coaching career with Bayern when his playing days were over, and you couldn't really argue with Klinsmann's decision to jump ship.

Against all those Fatherland comforts, the debits of staying at Tottenham were beginning to mount. Spurs had failed to qualify for Europe again and were far from being potential title-chasers.

The side was heavily weighed down with journeyman: there was still no midfield genius who could appreciate and reward Klinsmann's runs and turns (as previously Gascoigne had with Linke). Gerry Francis (who replaced Ardiles as manager in November 1994) had turned his team into a functioning unit, but the consequence of this was that Klinsmann was expected to play his full part in defensive duties — a chore few strikers relish.

Klinsmann was also concerned

at the number of games he was expected to play — the previous Christmas and new-year period had come as a shock to his system, as had the myopic referees who had consistently refused to protect him despite some serious penalty-area butchery. No wonder thoughts of his second nightmare season at Monaco returned.

Klinsmann had to ask himself why he should play a second year for Spurs when he could play fewer games in a better team for more money in his own country?

On the afternoon of Thursday May 11, 1995, the media were summoned to The Comedy Cafe in central London, where Jürgen announced his decision to leave Spurs in just three days' time.

"If anyone's to blame," Sugar confessed, "it's me. I signed Jürgen to solve a problem, and I've created another one. Maybe that's part of the learning process for me. Gerry looks more deeply into things."

Extracted from *Dream On: a year in the life of a Premier League club*, by Alex Fynn and H. David, published by Simon & Schuster Ltd on October 7 at £14.99.

Problems in the transfer market and how Tottenham missed out on a big signing

Spurs wanted Klinsmann badly so he could afford to dictate outrageous personal terms*

challenging for major honours. He was determined to leave a presidential imprint on the club, adamant that Bayern should no longer live in the shadow of the side he had captained to three successive European Cup wins between 1974 and 1976. His objective was simply stated: that "Bayern should resume its position among the Euro mega clubs on a regular basis".

Beckenbauer offered the 30-year-old Klinsmann a three-year contract worth £1 million a year, with a further £1.6 million signing-

fee — terms that almost doubled the German's earnings at White Hart Lane. Perhaps more important was that Bayern, under Beckenbauer, had determined to do exactly what Alan Sugar wanted to do at Tottenham — build a championship-winning side. However, unlike Tottenham, Bayern were not prepared to sacrifice a transitional season. With a new coach, Otto Rehhagel — who had failed to win by one point the title for Werder Bremen when his new club beat them in the last game of the season — the signals were clear: a revitalised Bayern with Klinsmann in attack, alongside new signings Sridz, Sforza and Herzog, together

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Problems in the transfer market and how Tottenham missed out on a big signing

Local rivals call time on Queen Anne's reign

BY JOHN GOODBODY

IF LITTLE is certain in this particular true when matches are of shorter duration than is customary.

Queen Anne's School, Caversham, were clear favourites to win their own invitation seniors lacrosse tournament on Saturday. They have been national champions in six of the past ten years. In March, they shared the title with Haberdashers' Aske's but have already beaten their co-holders this term.

Lacrosse is such a demanding game physically that, in a tournament compressed into 4½ hours and with the finalists having to play a total of five games, the matches last a maximum of 16 minutes. This compares with up to 30 minutes for a full-length fixture in the under-18 age group.

In the final on Saturday, Queen Anne's met Downe House, their Berkshire rivals, who had just beaten Chelten-

ham Ladies College 3-1 after extra time in the semi-finals. This extended period of play further handicapped Downe House for the final, which took place after only the briefest of breaks.

Queen Anne's 1-0 semi-final winners over St Swithun's, Winchester, began the match showing vigour and enterprise but, as their head of PE, Judy Gorrie, said: "The occasion and their eagerness to win unnerfed them. We made too many mistakes, particularly with our basic stick-work skills."

Downe House played with aplomb. Their opponents, under pressure because of the lack of time, became increasingly frenetic and were deservedly beaten 2-0.

Downe House also had a distinguished recent pedigree in the national championships, having reached the semi-finals in each of the past five years.

"They observe the rules much more strictly," Gorrie said. "You have to be careful not to get penalised. You have to

wear gumshields by law over there, here it is just advised."

"The Americans run with the ball so much. Their schools even have specific fitness instructors and the players have a pact not to drink or smoke during the season." Queen Anne's lost only one match on tour, their final fixture, when they conceded two goals to beat 15-13 by Unionville HS, in Pennsylvania.

A principle reason for Kennerley going to Queen Anne's, which is a girls-only, largely boarding school, on the edge of Reading, was because of her interest in lacrosse. "I saw everyone coming in muddy and thought 'Yep, that is what I want to do.'

The school has had a good run of success, Gorrie said, because "the girls take pride in representing the school and the younger ones are inspired by the older ones; it is a self-perpetuating thing."

Kennerley now plays as cover point in defence, as lacrosse, equivalent of a sweeper in football. "You have to anticipate where the ball is going to be in two passes' time and watch the overlapping of our defence."

Nicola Speller, the team captain, likes lacrosse because "we all have to work for each other. You do get pretty tired. Half the battle is getting fit for the matches." As boarders, the pair can run together every night in addition to their regular three or four training sessions a week.

Speller said: "We concentrate on specific moves round the goal. We have code names for them so that everyone knows what we have to do."

That is something on which they will be concentrating over the next fortnight. Gorrie said: "On October 5, there is the Berkshire schools tournament and we want to play Downe House again." There was meaning in her voice as she said the words.



Queen Anne's and Downe House players contest possession in the final on Saturday

SPORT IN SCHOOLS

better this year. We really gelled today."

Like Downe House, Queen Anne's have toured the United States, where lacrosse originally developed, this year. Lizzie Kennerley, 17, who has already been invited to attend England squad training sessions, was struck by the difference in the American style of play compared with that in Britain.

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RUGBY UNION: LEICESTER'S LIMITED APPROACH COULD GIVE THEM SERIOUS CAUSE FOR CONCERN

Victory gives Wasps unique double

Wasps 14
Leicester 7

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

HARLEQUINS may occupy first place in the Courage Clubs' Championship, but Wasps, the other unbeaten team in the first division, have earned far more of the glory. No other team can claim to have beaten Bath and Leicester in the league within the space of nine days — beaten, that is, the two clubs that have dominated English rugby for the past decade.

Yet, with a mere three minutes left to play at Loftus Road yesterday, Wasps trailed and looked likely to regret the rush of blood from Va'aiga Tuigamala when he tapped a very kickable penalty 15 metres out only for Damien Cronin to fail to reach the line. Few, though, would quarrel with the outcome, for Wasps

Full results and league tables . Page 41

carried the game to Leicester and have skill, pace and a depth of character that is remarkable in so young a side.

Leicester have lost their focus. They know that their structured game will take them only so far in the modern, fast-moving era, but they have yet to determine who will be the guiding spirit to take them forward. It cannot be Dean Richards and the hard heads in their pack, but the backs have yet to establish an effective combination.

When all is said and done, though, Leicester could have won this match and maintained their move towards the top of the division. The game had entered the final quarter when, at last, Underwood found himself in space with only Rees, the Wasps full back, to beat. He might have gone himself, but chose instead to pass to the unmarked John Liley and the pass was forward. In so tight a game, a lead of six or eight points



Sheasby, the inspirational Wasps No 8, can find no way through the Leicester defence at Loftus Road yesterday

nate the game. Gomarsall had the benefit of greater pace around him, but, as the second half wore on, 10,686 crowd — a thousand more than for the game with Saracens a fortnight earlier — began to wonder where the winning points would come from.

In the end, they came from

Leicester. Wasps pressed, 15 metres from the line, and Garforth received a yellow card for killing the ball. Rees guided the penalty between the posts with two minutes left on the clock and the final thrust came in added time.

Leicester were forced to run from their own 22, Under-

wood slipped and Wasps claimed the scrum. The back row opted for the blind side and Gomarsall sent Hopley, a replacement for young Sampson, scorching in by the corner flag to the acclaim of the faithful.

SCORERS: Wasps: Try: Hopley. Penalty goals: Rees (3). Leicester: Try: Penalty try: Conversion: J. Liley (81).

Referee: S. Lander (Liverpool).

WASPS: G. Rees, P. Sampson, N. Gomarsall, V. Tuigamala, S. Rees, A. King, D. Richards, D. Cronin, M. Greenwood, L. Dallaglio, C. Sheasby, Sampson replaced by P. Hopley (40min), P. Sampson, temporary replacement for C. Sheasby (13-15min), D. Richards, H. Sheasby replaced by W. Drake-Lee (81). Referee: S. Lander (Liverpool).

West Hartlepool 25
Saracens 16

By A CORRESPONDENT

WEST HARTLEPOOL are fortunate to be rubbing shoulders with the rugby elite as the relegation goalposts were moved at the end of last season. Mark Ring's team have, however, served notice that they intend to stay up on merit.

Saracens found to their cost that West will be nobody's fools, suffering the ignominy of being the first team to lose to them in 23 league matches. While this was no classic, West deserved their upturn in fortunes.

The players, who made capitulation into something of an art form during the losing sequence, showed that while their amalgam of true northern grit, sprinkled with a host of Welsh accents, may not win them titles, it may well help them to earn enough points to survive.

West travel to Bath next Saturday before returning to the North East for a match against Leicester. No longer will they seek such fixtures. Dubbed Welsh Hartlepool in some quarters, West are more than just a resting place for recruits from the Valleys.

Chris Murphy, the England A second-row forward and a giant of a 20-year-old, Ivan Morgan, an inspirational No 8 from Canterbury, New Zealand, but qualified to play for any of the home unions, and John Ions, England Under-21 flanker, dispelled those jibes.

The Welsh dragon was breathing fire outside the scrum as well. Ring's legs may not be as young as they used to be, but he put his experience, skill and vision to expert use, while Chris John, the Wales student international, looks to have been a shrewd signing. He was responsible for 15 of West's points on Saturday.

An England representative was at Brierton Lane to watch Saracens' highly-rated back-

row players, Tony Diprose and Richard Hill, as well as Kyran Bracken, the scrum half, but will have been more impressed with the men wearing green.

Murphy provided a feast of second-half lineout possession that the back row of Morgan, Ions and Alan Brown used with relish to drive Saracens backwards.

As for Saracens, embarrassed as much by their performance as the result, there is much work to be done. Without their general, Michael Lynch, at stand-off half, they were lacking in direction — and points — and their forwards looked a thoroughly beaten bunch in the second half.

At half-time, the game looked as though it was theirs for the taking. Leading 8-6 thanks to a Munro Edmond alarm call and a penalty by Andy Tuningley, to two from Chris John, they had the advantage of a strong wind.

Surely they could not waste it? They did, though, and although Richard Wallace, who will give many a first-division defence the run-around this season, sprinted over for a try in the 72nd minute. Saracens could not contain West.

Tries by Ring, Morgan and Chris John, all on virtually the same spot of the in-goal area, swept them to a surprise victory.

Ring believes that West can move up and away from danger, but his Saracens counterpart, Mark Evans, will be keen to remind his well-paid players that they cannot afford any more defeats like this.

SCORERS: West Hartlepool: Tries: Ring, Morgan, C. John, Conversions: C. John (3). Penalty goals: C. John (2). Saracens: Tries: Tuningley, R. Wallace. Penalty goal:

WEST HARTLEPOOL: M. Sivu, M. Wood, S. John, C. John, G. Corde, M. Ring, M. Morgan, C. Tuningley, R. Wallace, R. Hill, V. Hartland, J. Ions, C. Murphy, D. Mitchell, A. Brown, I. Morgan, Whitehead replaced by T. Harber (53min), Hardland replaced by P. Williams (63min).

SARACENS: A. Tuningley, R. Wallace, P. Morgan, C. John, C. Tuningley, R. Wallace, P. Sivu, D. Dooley, M. Edmond, A. Lee, K. Bracken, A. Oliver, C. Oney, P. Wallace, A. McAllister, P. Johns, T. Copsey, R. Hill, A. Diprose. Referee: G. Hughes (Manchester).

ROWING

Britain to oppose cutbacks

By MIKE ROSEWELL ROWING CORRESPONDENT

GREAT Britain will strongly resist proposals by Fisa, the international governing body, to reduce the number of events in future world championships. The Amateur Rowing Association (ARA) Council, supported by athletes, rejected the arguments of cost and media coverage put forward by Fisa and decided, at a meeting at Henley on Saturday, to fight for the retention of 24 events.

Fisa wished to stage just 19 events, changing the emphasis of the sport radically since all the events dropped would be rowing rather than sculling disciplines, leaving the programme at 12 sculling and just seven rowing. All lightweight women's rowing, and the men's lightweight eight events, in which Britain has excelled internationally in recent years, would disappear.

CYCLING

Boardman celebrates his moment of truth

By PETER BRYAN

CHRIS BOARDMAN yesterday became the first British professional to win the Classic Grand Prix des Nations time-trial, when he celebrated victory over Bjørn Riis, the Tour de France winner, and Abraham Olano, the World Road Race champion.

In an unparalleled display

then the way forward must be to assist them, but not by penalising good and successful juniors." He is to hold a special junior conference to discuss the issue in October.

The meeting marked the end of an era with the retirement of Brian Armstrong, Britain's international rowing manager since 1990. The respect for Armstrong's professional approach was underlined by the numbers of administrators and athletes who attended a subsequent farewell on Temple Island. They included Steve Redgrave and Marthew Pinfold, winners of the gold medal in the coxed pairs at the Atlanta Olympics.

Colin Myrone, a founder-member and current chairman of the West of England ARA, has been awarded the ARA Medal of Honour.

The meeting also generated some heated debate on the future of domestic rowing. A proposed rule change, asked for by clubs, to introduce status points for wins in junior (schoolboy) events to reduce competition at lower-status levels between adult and school crews was roundly opposed by the Junior Rowing Commission.

Peter Politzer, chairman of the commission, said: "It seemed ludicrous that adults need to be protected against the competition of children. If the adult club crews are so poor that they cannot compete,

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

Youth policy is the pride of Lionesses

THE CHARGE of Millwall Lionesses in the premier national division has begun in earnest as the London team inflicted the first defeat of the season on Doncaster Belles yesterday (Sarah Forde writes). The Lionesses touted over the past two seasons to cause a stir with a plethora of young players brought into the team, appear to have begun to fulfil their potential.

It is early days but a victory away to one of the stronger teams — albeit 1-0 — sounds a warning of Millwall's intention this season. Millwall share top spot with Wembly, another team of promise and expertly organised by John Jones, the coach.

Wembly became the less daunting task of travelling to Tranmere Rovers but won to move level on points and goal difference with Millwall. The

implications are that the established order, dominated by Doncaster, Arsenal and Croydon, will be ruffled this year.

Liverpool, who had lost their first two games, fired on all cylinders to despatch newly-promoted Southampton Saints 6-1.

Arsenal cruised to a 4-0 victory against Ilkeston Town. Joanne Broadhurst, the linchpin of their forward movements, was on the end of two of their flowing thrusts into Ilkeston's porous defence.

Rachel Yankie, one of half a dozen new players, scored shortly after having come on as a substitute proving that Vic Akers, the coach, has plenty of options.

Croydon came back from two goals down to draw 2-2 with Everton. Terry Davis and Debbie Bampton bringing them a point.

For a moment, I thought the thing was about to take off. But it never actually did," a bemused Snelling said. Just 15 club coaches and a handful of swimmers turned up, while halfway through the proceedings the Scottish representatives made their apologies and left to catch a flight home.

There could have been no more sobering reintroduction to the world of the amateur for

HAD Deryk Snelling, a Lancastrian, who left Britain some 30 years ago for a successful career in Canada, a country for which he has produced a multitude of Olympic medal-winners.

"I'd say you are about 25 years behind Canada," he said before describing the responsibilities he will assume officially on October 1 as representing "a truly exciting challenge".

Those who did attend yesterday mulled over pre-Games preparations and concluded that all had been well, though more discussions about the worth of training camps as part of a national plan were deemed essential. Few delegates spoke, however, perhaps conscious that Snelling is now the man who must find the solutions.

British swimmers in Atlanta won two medals, one silver.

SWIMMING

Snelling going in at deep end

By CRAIG LORD

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one bronze, filled eight places in finals and 14 in B, or consolation, finals. That was not a bad effort, most seemed to think, and in true head-in-the-sand fashion appeared keen to dwell on the fact that 65 per cent of the men and 40 per cent of women who went to Atlanta improved on the times recorded in the Olympic trials, rather than the more stark statistic that in 35 races only six British competitors produced personal-best times.

After the meeting, Snelling said that lasting success could be achieved only after five to eight years of development. He intends to achieve that not by directly developing the grass roots but by setting standards of excellence at elite centres that the sport's lower orders can aspire to. "It's the reverse pyramid structure and it's the right one for Britain," he said.

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THURSDAY: FA CUP: Second round: Kick-off 7.30pm. FA Cup: Second round: Kick-off 7.30pm.

FRIDAY: FA CUP: Second round: Kick-off 7.30pm. FA Cup: Second round: Kick-off 7.30pm.

SATURDAY: FA CUP: Second round: Kick-off 7.30pm. FA Cup: Second round: Kick-off 7.30pm.

SUNDAY: FA CUP: Second round: Kick-off 7.30pm. FA Cup: Second round: Kick-off 7.30pm.

MONDAY: FA CUP: Second round: Kick-off 7.30pm. FA Cup: Second round: Kick-off 7.30pm.

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WEDNESDAY: FA CUP:

RUGBY UNION

McGeechan lays sound foundations for future

Northampton 41
Orrell 7

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

OF ALL the clubs in the first division of the Courage Clubs Championship, Northampton have made the transition from the amateur to the professional era better than most. They already had many of the business structures and the financial support in place and, last season, they were playing the fluid, entertaining rugby to which most of their new peers now aspire.

That style has translated from the second division to the first. Ian McGeechan, their director of rugby, acknowledges that the first division contains bigger, more tactically-aware players, but he has the personnel to overcome any difficulties. More to the point, he believes he is creating a generation of players, down through all the club teams, who want to play in the same, entertaining fashion.

The style demands its own discipline, as well as mental concentration and a high degree of fitness: "The more often the situation on the field changes, the better players they will become," McGeechan said. His team at Franklin's Gardens on Saturday supported him to the hilt.

There is a clarity to McGeechan's observations that is much appreciated: a year ago, he was talking of a European club structure that is now, notionally, in place. Now he speaks of the need from the Rugby Football Union (RFU) of a comparatively small financial gesture as the key to unlocking the crisis between the union and the clubs, and the prospect of the British Isles — whom he will coach in South Africa next summer — playing a three-match series against incoming tour teams as the climax to games against each of the home unions.

Yet the game's complex politics were not on McGeechan's mind after a less than archetypal Northampton performance. They created more problems for themselves than they solved in a first half that saw only one of the game's eight tries scored — and, for that, a gritty defensive display by Orrell must take some credit.

Poor Orrell. How they have worked these past 20 years to

be part of England's elite and now, under-resourced and cutting their cloth accordingly, they stare up at the rest of the division.

Even when they believed they had attracted the multi-talented Frano Botica, from Castleford, to bring on their youngsters, they found him lured away by Llanelli, with whom they now have a dispute over compensation — said to be around £60,000, which, in these over-inflated days, might buy a London club a half-decent forward.

Even so, they can find a player, like Rob Hitchmough from West Park, with enough

talent to attract the attention of the RFU's talent-spotters

squad: Ian Metcalfe and Ian Peck were both at Franklin's

Gardens to assess the form of, among others, Hitchmough at full back, only for the Botica

dispute to move him to stand-off half, where he made a fair

few of matters even while

Orrell's prospects drained

dry. *Sweet Georgia Brown.*

Afterwards, Dick Best, the

Harlequins director of rugby,

was getting all trembly-lipped

about various rosters who have criticised the deathbed conversion of rugby union to "entertainment". "If this

had happened anywhere

abroad, you'd all be applauding it," he said. "Two sides, so

positive, scoring tries, and the

game is about scoring tries."

Well, Harlequins ran in

another four on Saturday, and

thereafter, only a charged-down try by Tuigamala

earned the Lancashire club any relief. Bell's brace in the

final quarter hammered down

the coffin lid, and Orrell's

frustration earned Angels a

yellow card, which might have

been of a different hue had not

the game been all but over.

SCORERS: Northampton: Tries: Bell (2),

Orrell, Tuigamala, Metcalfe, G.

McKinnon. Conversions: Gregson (2),

Orrell. Try: Tuigamala. Conversions:

Tuigamala. Penalties: Metcalfe (2).

Northampton: Tries: Bell, G.

Tuigamala, J. Bell, H. Thompson, G.

Grayson, M. Dawson, M. Volland, A. Clarke,

M. Stewart, D. McKinnon, J. Phillips,

F. Foskett, A. P. Courtney, J. Reardon,

Conversions: T. Gregson, J. Metcalfe, I.

Orrell, J. Bell, I. Meyer, D. Lyon, G.

Unguema, N. Heslop, R. Hitchmough, S.

Code, P. Lescott, M. Scott, S. Turner,

P. Ainslie, C. Cusack, P. Rees, P. Clayton,

A. McFarlane. Metcalfe (2). Penalties: A. Metcalfe (2).

Referee: N. Whitehouse (Swansea).

CRICKET: SELF-BELIEF INSPIRED BY LEADERSHIP OF WHITAKER ENSURES TRIUMPHANT FINALE AT GRACE ROAD

Leicestershire spirit away title honours

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

LEICESTER (final day of four): Leicestershire (24pts) beat Middlesex (4) by an innings and 74 runs

FINALLY, even the most sceptical ran dry of reasons to doubt them. Leicestershire won the county championship because they played the most consistently convincing cricket of the many pretenders to the title this year. They won it because they had the best team, if not the best players. And they won it because they believed that they would.

James Whitaker, a highly motivational captain, was inexhaustible in telling his players and anyone else who cared to listen, that nothing was beyond them. Phil Simmons enforced this philosophy with the help of those who are well-known, such as David Millns and Alan Mullally, and those, such as Vince Wells and Adrian Pierson, who are not.

"It hasn't been about me, or about Jimmy," Simmons told an ecstatic crowd from the Grace Road balcony. "It is about being a team." Like most of his colleagues, Simmons was dazed as much by the celebrations of the previous night as the impact of improbable success, but this was still a succinct summary of Leicestershire's methods.

To a degree, they are clones of the previous champions, Warwickshire. They, too, were short on big names and obvious title potential but, for both sides, success came through meticulous preparation and a maximising of every asset of technique or temperament, creating a spirit that opponents could neither break nor adequately fathom.

Whitaker has encouraged his players to be open, uninhibited, even unafraid of looking daft. Their curious arm-locking huddle after each wicket started out in jest but took on symbolic and, on Saturday, with the title safe, the team indulged in an impromptu conga along the committee balcony.

One could hardly imagine Raymond Illingworth leading such a performance back in



The champagne flows on the Grace Road balcony after Leicestershire had secured victory in the county championship against Middlesex at the weekend

1975, when the championship pennant last flew in Leicester, but that suits the present team just fine. They do not wish to be compared with Illingworth's side, as has been the fate of every Leicestershire team for the past two decades: they want to be assessed and appreciated on their own merits.

These merits are considerable — more considerable, certainly, than any but Whitaker himself imagined when the season began. Despite being new to a job he had awaited with scarcely concealed impatience, Whitaker possessed a rare self-belief. He might have left the

county three years ago, when he had the opportunity to captain elsewhere, but his roots held his ambition in check, only to be fully unleashed when he succeeded Nigel Briers this spring.

"Since our pre-season tour to South Africa, I always felt we could win if we steered clear of injuries," he said. Whitaker has spoken for months of allowing his players to express themselves and of finding "the extra ten or 20 per cent that most county players have in reserve". He has achieved it triumphantly and his leadership merits comparison with that of Dermot Reeve at Edgbaston.

The most remarkable, most pertinent aspect of their success is that they used only 13 players in the championship. More than one county this year has used more than 20, which inevitably dissipates

team spirit. Leicestershire lived together as a tight unit, overseen by the avuncular figure of their manager, Jack Birkenshaw, a player in the 1975 title side yet infinitely more fulfilled by his latest feat.

"It is the highlight of my career," Birkenshaw said yesterday. "Even better than playing Test cricket for England. We have a selfless bunch of players. There is no one who is looking to grab the glory for himself. James has been a big influence as captain — he is so very positive — and Simmons has had a wonderful year."

Simmons' exclusion from the West Indies team since before the World Cup grates

visibly. "But it's not my form that is keeping me out, it's a personal vendetta against me by someone on the selection committee," he said.

"He will be doing his best to overcome that barrier this winter, though he has already been omitted from the party to tour Australia. He does not expect to be asked to sign a contract by the West Indies Cricket Board and he plans to be back at Grace Road next summer for another party."

It may not rival the one that consumed Grace Road this weekend. From the moment when Surrey conceded the title to the West Indies team since before the World Cup grates

became champagne time, the drinks flowed. There were some necessary dark glasses, some unsteady walks yesterday morning, but nobody cared and Middlesex were not in the mood to embarrass the hung-over.

Mills took four for 21 to wrap up victory inside 50 minutes and provoke yet more triumphalism from the balcony. On Tuesday, the team will parade the trophy for a civic reception. On Friday, they stage a club dinner and the "sold out" signs are up. Suddenly, incongruously, Leicestershire are a boom club and county cricket is the better for it.

FINAL TABLE

	P	W	L	D	Br	BPts
Leics (7)	17	10	1	6	57	61 296
Derbyshire (14)	17	9	3	5	62	58 269
Surrey (12)	17	8	2	7	49	54 262
Kent (18)	17	9	2	6	47	52 261
Essex (5)	17	8	5	4	58	57 255
Yorkshire (8)	17	8	5	4	50	58 248
Worcesters (10)	17	6	4	7	45	60 222
Warwicks (11)	17	7	6	4	39	55 218
Notwicks (2)	17	7	6	3	36	53 113
Glamorgan (16)	17	6	5	6	50	43 207
Somerset (9)	17	5	6	6	38	61 197
Sussex (5)	17	6	2	3	26	58 196
Gloucs (6)	17	5	5	2	23	59 177
Hampshire (13)	17	3	7	7	41	56 166
Lancashire (4)	17	2	6	5	49	52 160
Northants (3)	17	3	3	6	36	57 159
Notts (11)	17	1	7	7	42	52 131
Durham (7)	17	0	12	5	22	60 97

(Last season's positions in brackets)

have won another trophy," he said, "but it has been a fair season. We are a good side and have played some good cricket. In the past, players have left it to others to come up with the goods. This year we have matured."

On the batting side, Stewart can be pleased with the progress of Adam Hollioake, who captains the England A team in Australia this winter, and Butcher, who will accompany him. "We have two top-class players there," he said.

The bowling has been strengthened by Julian and Lewis, who can also bowl and field well. Martin Bicknell's ability to stay clear of injury has helped them and, said Stewart, "underlined what a good bowler he could have been". Indeed, and how sad those words sound.

Whether Julian returns as the overseas professional next year lies in the hands of the Australia selectors. Stewart said he was "high on the list" of candidates after a summer of considerable personal achievement but, with Australia playing a Test series against West Indies and South Africa before coming to England, they will be stretched this winter as never before, and will need all hands on deck.

Julian has demonstrated his batting ability on several important occasions this season. Yesterday, after the top order collapsed in the morning session, he helped Bicknell to add 141 in 29 overs for the eighth wicket, a Surrey record against Worcestershire. He struck the ball cleanly enough to make 80 from 86 balls, with 15 fours and a six until, looking for six more, he drove Solanki long-on, where Solanki held a catch on the run.

Solanki, bowling what Harry Pilling used to call "flighted filth", took the final two wickets as Ben Hollioake and Benjamin sought big hits towards the shorter mid-wicket boundary. Bicknell remained defiant to the end and left the field a happy man. There were handshakes all round on a crisp afternoon as cricket finally surrendered to autumn.

Openers set up Glamorgan win

By JACK BAILEY

CHELMSFORD (final day of four): Glamorgan (24pts) beat Essex (6) by seven wickets

HUGH MORRIS and Stephen James are one of the more prolific pairs in county cricket. Yesterday, they rounded off another good season with a partnership of 199, which not only surpassed the previous highest opening partnership for Glamorgan against Essex, but proved expensive for their opponents.

Failure to squeeze a victory out of this match left Essex in fifth place; a win would have seen them runners-up to Leicestershire. The difference amounts to £21,000.

The comparative ease with which Glamorgan achieved the task of scoring 284 runs from 65 overs both beggar belief and underlined that the main obstacle in Essex's quest for high honours has been an attack which has lacked a cutting edge — certainly on pitches as good as that prepared by Stuart Kerrison for this match. As Morris moved confidently past his sixth century of the season, the bowling looked threadbare and careworn.

It could have been a different tale if Gooch — yes, he is fallible — had been able to



Morris: sixth century

Smith's end-of-term spirit goes missing

By PAT GIBSON

SOUTHAMPTON (final day of four): Hampshire (Spots) drew with Nottinghamshire (8)

IT WAS not meant to be a symbolic gesture but it was as good a way of summing up an undistinguished end to an undistinguished season for two counties who just did not have it in them to sign off with a bit of style.

Chris Cairns, Nottinghamshire's New Zealand all-rounder, who had just been given out caught behind, stormed off the field, pausing only to throw his bat into a convenient rubbish bin. Whether he was angry with himself, with the umpire, or simply with the way the game was being played, it hardly seemed to matter.

After watching Morris run for fun in the race which saw Glamorgan's journey towards the final 100 runs completed inside 27 overs, James then played second fiddle. Morris was on song and there was no stopping him.

When Law, Essex's most successful bowler, finally beat an attempt by Morris to hit him out of the ground, the chunky Welshman had batted for 32 hours for his 149, had hit 34 fours and had made his first century against Essex. He now needs only one against Surrey to complete a full set against the counties.

Gooch's catching was again tried and found wanting when he put down Hemp at mid-off. But by then the game was all but over as Hemp, forcefully, and Coney, carefully, saw Glamorgan home and into tenth place in this year's championship with nine balls to spare.

When the long, cold winter nights make most memories of the summer grow dim, Mal Loye and Richard Mongomery, the Northamptonshire opening batsmen, will have no trouble recalling just how they last wielded a bat in anger. They spent much of yesterday — the final day of the 1996 season — making their side safe from defeat and, in the process, created a sizeable piece of history as they shared the highest opening partnership in Northamptonshire's 91-year existence as a first-class county.

Neither Loye, who scored a maiden double-century, nor Mongomery, who contributed 127 towards their stand of 372 in six hours, will be touring with the England sides this winter, although quite why, in Loye's case, is a moot point.

He was chosen for an England A tour three years ago at the age of 21, and he has not progressed significantly since then, perhaps says more about the club than the player. In a strong batting side, it is often easier to leave out the character who complains the least, and even this season, in which Loye has scored 1,000 with no prospect of obtaining a positive result, Northamptonshire batted on in relaxed mood. Bailey and Walton scoring runs much as they liked in the final session before an offer of some distinctly reasonable light was accepted at 4.40pm.

There did seem to be a chance of a decent finish when Hampshire began 161 ahead with nine wickets in hand, but it was soon obvious that they had no intention of giving the faithful few something to remember during the months of hibernation.

Johnson, the Nottinghamshire captain, did try to "chivvy them along" by bowling himself, Archer, Dowman and even the wicket-keeper, Noon, all to no avail.

Johnson actually had the satisfaction of taking a wicket — only his sixth in 15 seasons — when he held a return catch to dismiss White for a painstaking 53, and Archer picked up three with what he describes as "very medium pace", but their smiles disappeared when Smith, Hampshire's acting captain, allowed the innings to continue until Nottinghamshire needed to

score 304 off a minimum of 52 overs.

Smith's explanation for a

decision which seemed to take

no account of the fact that neither side had anything to lose or that there were spectators to be entertained was that,

with Bovill, Botham and Udal injured, he was down to only two fit bowlers. It was a surprise, therefore, when one of the supposed casualties, Udal, opened the attack and proceeded to bowl unchanged throughout the innings without any sign of injury.

Not surprisingly, Nottinghamshire, who had declared 122 behind in the hope of making a game of it, were unimpressed. They may have played some poor cricket in the county championship this season but they were enterprising enough to finish joint top of the AXA Equity & Law League, losing the title to Surrey only on an inferior scoring rate, and they would have been prepared to chase anything reasonable for only their second win of the season.

Now, however, they made their intentions plain from the

pitch. With Robinson nursing a rib injury, they sent in Afzal to open with Dowman, and they made no attempt to force the pace against the spin of Udal and Maru.

There was some incentive for the bowlers in that Maru needed only three more wickets to become the eighteenth Hampshire bowler to take 500 in first-class cricket while Udal could have done with a match-winning performance to give him some consolation at the end of a moderate season.

They were to be disappointed. Maru had to settle for two wickets and Udal three as only Archer, adding to his first-innings century with 63 off 100 balls, including two sixes and eight fours, relieved the gloom of a cold and cheerless day.

The shivering spectators deserved better.

BY IVO TENNANT

EDGBASTON (final day of four): Warwickshire (9pts) drew with Lancashire (11)

THE pitch, as much as Warwickshire's batting and a weariness exacerbated by the passing of summer, stymied Lancashire's chances of a rare championship victory yesterday. Nick Knight, by contrast, made his fourth first-class century of the season with a jauntiness that suggested he cannot wait for his winter tour to begin. Given his form of late for county as well as country, that is no surprise.

The first-wicket record, previously held by Oldfield and Brodrick, who put on 361 against Scotland in 1953, fell at 153pm, when Loye swept Stump to the boundary to also take his own score to 201. Shortly after, Gooch returned with the intention of taking the new ball, but before he did so, Mongomery tried to swat the ball through mid-wicket for the umpteenth time and miscued it into the hands of Silverwood. Two balls later, and with the new ball now in his hand, Gooch had Loye held at second slip.

With no prospect of obtaining a positive result, Northamptonshire batted on in relaxed mood. Bailey and Walton scoring runs much as they liked in the final session before an offer of some distinctly reasonable light was accepted at 4.40pm.

At Hove, where Somerset won by eight wickets, Sussex succumbed to some persistent fast bowling from Andrew Caddick, who confirmed his fitness for winter tour duty with match figures of ten for 180 from 46 overs.

Warwickshire, then, finished the season in eighth

place and with £6,000, which was rather less booty than they would have expected when they were annihilating Sussex in their first championship match of the season. How swiftly everything changes.

Dermot Reeve, captain and century-maker on that occasion, before being forced into early retirement by injury, has some critical things to say about the county in his forthcoming autobiography. He is a front-runner for the position of coach at Somerset.

Warwickshire have no post for him and nor, now, are they likely to be inclined to try to find one. One player they are interested in taking on, more so, apparently, than Nick Speak, of Lancashire, is David Hemp, the 25-year-old Glamorgan batsman who has yet to sign a new contract. He is good enough to have been on the England A tour.

That, plus an unbeaten half century by Penney, the one individual to make 1,000 runs for Warwickshire this season, was sufficient to draw the match. Knight, who reached his century through an over-thrown, faced, in all, 196 balls and hit 13 fours. This was his second championship century to go with one for England and another against Cambridge University.

Warwickshire, then, finished the season in eighth

Bicknell's defiance tempers defeat for Surrey

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

THE OVAL (final day of four): Worcestershire (20pts) beat

RACING: LAMBOURN TRAINER UNVEILS POTENTIAL CHAMPIONS AT HER OPEN DAY

Pitman puts faith in youth policy

BY RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

JENNY PITMAN yesterday ushered in a new era by unveiling her potential Cheltenham and Aintree champions for the millennium — and thereby laid the ghosts which recently have threatened to undermine the "Queen of Lamourn."

It is three years since Bill and Shirley Robins inflicted a devastating body blow by removing some of the best horses in Mrs Pitman's care — notably Mighty Mogul — and so reduced the quality and quantity of jumpers at Weathercote House.

"I said at the time it would take between two and four years to rebuild our team and I think we are now back to where we were," she said at her open day.

Of the 80 horses on show, half had had only one run in a bumper race or have never seen a racecourse. But she believes some have the raw talent which, come the next century, will enable them to match the achievements of stars of the 1990s.

Aply enough, Garrison Savannah, who captured the 1991 Cheltenham Gold Cup, and Royal Athlete, last year's Grand National winner, completed the parade to underline the rewards which can flow from Mrs Pitman's patient strategy of giving horses time to develop their full potential.

"It does not matter how rich you are. These horses have

taken us to places and given us experiences which money cannot buy. We buy young horses, not to win a race because that is not good enough, but to make them champions."

While the youth policy is aimed very much at the future, Mrs Pitman, her son, Mark, and David Stait will have around 35 front-line troops to fight for the big races this campaign.

Nantwich Lad, winner of the Sun Alliance Chase, could develop into Cheltenham Gold Cup material while

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: ETTERTBY PARK (2.30 Musselburgh)
Next best: Castlerea Lad (4.15 Leicester)

Indefence, the Supreme Novice Hurdle victor, may be a realistic contender for the Champion Hurdle, one of the few championship races to elude Mrs Pitman.

However, several other horses received favourable mention. They include:

Arithmetica: A "bit of a monkey" who has tremendous potential and will probably go chasing this season after his successes at Newbury and Leicester last term.

Cantori Frater: A reformed character who won twice last

year and has benefited from a spell of show jumping. "He has enormous scope and may not be ahead of the handicapper".

Cherrymore: Has not seen a racecourse but worked last year as well as any of Mrs Pitman's bumper horses. A potentially exciting novice hurdler.

Chilled: Has done particularly well over the summer after finishing second in a decent Lingfield bumper. He will probably need 2½ miles over hurdles.

Cat Boys: Suffered from sore shins last year but has improved physically during the summer and is expected to make up for lost time this season.

Lord Regalbasa: High cruising speed and will be seen to best effect over 2½ miles.

Princeful: Only ran once last season but won by 12 lengths at Worcester. He has schooled particularly well and could be a Cheltenham horse.

Silver Thyme: Known as the pocket rocket at home, won his only start in a bumper at Newton Abbot last year and is held in high regard.

Tennesses Twist: A half-brother to Royal Athlete and shows all the courage of the Grand National winner. He won two of his four starts last season and will go novice chasing this term.

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Pitman and her son, Mark, show off their stable talent at yesterday's open day

Need to minimise the risk factor for going reports

Players of Monopoly will recognise the angst when they are invited to take a "Chance". They would prefer to abstain, for they may be told: Go directly to Jail. Do not pass Go. Do not collect E200.

For years, players of horses have involuntarily been drawing the "Chance" card. And they have been told: Go directly to Purgatory. Do not pass your Bookmaker. Do not enter Hope.

Betting has no purpose without hope. Hope is when you have considered a race, taken note of the ponderables and arrived at your selection. The rest you must leave to "chance"; but the "chance" is only taken when the ponderables are in your favour.

You must be happy with the trainer, the jockey, the draw, the distance of the race, the type of race, the track's characteristics and the form of your horse. Above all, the ground must be right. If you back a horse on unsuitable ground you are condemning yourself: Go directly to Jail.

Over the last decade, huge advances have been made in the data available to punters. The depth of information is such that the element of chance has been minimised. In tandem with this, the Jockey Club has been researching a mechanism for producing accurate going reports. It is three years since the project's birth and the denouement arrived last week. It has come to nothing. We are back where we started: Go directly to Jail.

It is three years since the project's birth and the denouement arrived last week. It has come to nothing. We are back where we started: Go directly to Jail.

JULIAN MUSCAT



Racing
Commentary

Punters have long recognised the absurdity of ground reports issued by clerks of the course. Some clerks inhabit a world where the ground always revolves around the word "good". After a deluge of Biblical proportions, it is "good racing ground"; after a drought, it is "good fast ground". In winter, when they are hock-deep in mud, we are told, it is "good jumping ground".

At Newbury in May, Lord Carnarvon, the racecourse chairman, attributed the defeat of his filly, Arethusa, to the softened ground. Yet the official going was described as "good to firm". It would be comical were it not for the fact that punters sit a small fortune through inaccurate going reports.

All they ask is to be told the truth so that the element of "chance" is minimised. This won't necessarily mean they will advance to Mayfair, but it would prevent them from advancing directly to Jail when it is they who have been robbed.

Queen joins Carson's well-wishers

BY OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT

IT WAS a case of out with the old and in with the new at Saturday's Jefferson Smurfit Memorial Irish St Leger at the Curragh. The 1993 and 94 Irish St Leger winner, Vintage Crop, made his last racecourse appearance at the head of the race parade and Oscar

Stoute was pleased with Sacrament's third place. "It got a little tight with Posidonia but he ran on again and I was pleased with that," the Newmarket trainer said.

Michael Stoute was pleased with Sacrament's third place. "It got a little tight with Posidonia but he ran on again and I was pleased with that," the Newmarket trainer said.

Aidan O'Brien gained his first group one flat victory when Desert King won the Aga Khan's Studs National Stakes under Walter Swinburn.

Vintage Crop will spend his retirement as a tourist attraction at the Irish National Stud but, in contrast, Oscar Stoute may only now be reaching his peak. "He is such a big horse, 17 hands, that I think he is still getting better as he grows into his frame," Kevin Prendergast, his trainer, said.

The jockey Stephen Craine, born in the Isle of Man, was landing his first Irish group one success and never had a moment's worry once Oscar Stoute loomed up on the outside of the favourite, Key Change, in the straight.

The Yorkshire Oaks winner held on for second, ahead of the British pair, Sacrament and Posidonia, who engaged in their own battle for much of the race.

THE AGA KHAN'S STUDS NATIONAL STAKES (Group 1-2-0): £12,600. 70

1. DESERT KING (K W Swinburn, 11-1). 2. Referendum (J Red, 10-1). 3. Azra (K J Manning, 10-1). 4. Aga Khan (D. 11-1). 5. Key Change (S. 11-1). 6. Sacrament (W R Swinburn, 9-2). ALSO: 1. Rockingham (4th). 2. Trinkell (2-0). 3. Rockford (4th). 4. G. 5. Sacrament (4th). 6. Posidonia (4th). 7. Rockford (4th). 8. G. 9. Rockford (4th). 10. Rockford (4th). 11. Rockford (4th). 12. Rockford (4th). 13. Rockford (4th). 14. Rockford (4th). 15. Rockford (4th). 16. Rockford (4th). 17. Rockford (4th). 18. Rockford (4th). 19. Rockford (4th). 20. Rockford (4th). 21. Rockford (4th). 22. Rockford (4th). 23. Rockford (4th). 24. Rockford (4th). 25. Rockford (4th). 26. Rockford (4th). 27. Rockford (4th). 28. Rockford (4th). 29. Rockford (4th). 30. Rockford (4th). 31. Rockford (4th). 32. Rockford (4th). 33. Rockford (4th). 34. Rockford (4th). 35. Rockford (4th). 36. Rockford (4th). 37. Rockford (4th). 38. Rockford (4th). 39. Rockford (4th). 40. Rockford (4th). 41. Rockford (4th). 42. Rockford (4th). 43. 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RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Bernrose Corporation, Britannia Group, Inchcape, Scholl, SIG, Transtec, VCTs.

Finals: BZW Endowment Fund, Close Brothers Group, Community Hospitals, Kleinwort Development Fund, Melrose Energy, Regent Inns.

Economics: Meeting between Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor, of the Bank of England, US August Treasury budget report, US Treasury auction of short-term bills, Japan markets closed.

TOMORROW

Interims: Arcoelectrics Holdings, Laura Ashley, Britton Group, Chelstefield, Horace Clarkson, Hodder Headline, IFG Group, Alfred McAlpine, Pittards, Queens Moat Houses, Radius, Ruberoid, Vero Group.

Finals: BCE Holdings, Pan American Resources, Southern Newspapers.

Economics: UK Q2 balance of payments, UK Q2 final GDP, US Federal Open Market Committee meeting, US September consumer confidence.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Aeron, Brake Brothers, Carisbrooke Shipping, Denvore, Global Group, Hamsons & Crosfield, Helical Bar, Redarc Group, Ryan Hotels, Sealfield, Torex Group.

Finals: Barratt Developments, Henderson Eurotrust, A&J Mucklow, Murray Split Capital Trust.

Economics: Bank of England to auction gilts in 2020-2022 range.

THURSDAY

Interims: British Dredging, Brundtiff Aggregates, Guinness, Higgs & Hill, Metlife Group, Norcor Holdings, Oliver Group, Parco Energy, Redland, TDS Circuits.

Finals: Beazer Homes, McBride, Schröder Japan Growth, SR Gent, Premium Trust, Renishaw.

Economics: UK July global trade in goods, UK August non-EU trade in goods, US weekly jobless claims.

FRIDAY

Interims: Hepworth, Joseph Holt, International Energy, Speciality Shops, Streamline Holdings.

Finals: C.H. Bailey, Graystone, Arthur Shaw & Co, Verity Group.

Economics: UK August major banking groups' monthly mortgage lending, US Q2 final GDP.

COMPANIES

MICHAEL CLARK

Brokers at odds over Guinness

GUINNESS: Brokers seem to be divided about the outcome when the group, of which Tony Greener is chairman, unveils interim figures on Thursday. NatWest Securities is taking a bullish line, forecasting pre-tax profits up from £340 million to £351 million while UBS expects a downturn to about the £337 million mark.

UBS expects another flat performance from the spirits division, while NatWest believes it is at a turning point and that profits will improve during the second half. Operating profits from spirits are likely to be down 2 per cent, with further declines in markets such as the US, France, Brazil and Colombia.

The brewing side continues to make steady progress, with a 6 per cent increase in profitability. Earnings per share should show a small improvement of 5p to 12.1p, with the interim dividend raised from 4.2p to 4.6p.

REDLAND: Poor weather is likely to be blamed on Thursday for a downturn in first-half profits. The depressed building industry in Germany has also weighed heavily, just as it did last week when RMC Group reported a sharp drop in profits.

Forecasts differ sharply, with NatWest looking for £68 million compared with £165.2 million for the corresponding period and UBS seeing the figure nearer to £130 million. The dividend should be maintained at 5.5p net. In June, the group reported that volumes in Europe had plunged 44 per cent in the first quarter although there are signs of improvement with the first tentative signs of recovery in the German residential housing market.

LAURA ASHLEY: Half-year figures from Sears and Next last week painted a contrasting picture so brokers will be paying attention to Tuesday's interim statement from Laura Ashley. At first glance the figures should prove encouraging, with pre-tax profits doubling to £6 million. A return to the dividend list with a 5p payment is also anticipated. In May the group reported a 1 per cent increase in sales. Brokers



Tony Greener, chairman of Guinness, could serve up an improved interim dividend

will want to view the overall picture after restructuring in Britain and America and recent problems associated with destocking.

HARRISON CROSFIELD: Half-year figures on Wednesday are unlikely to show much change on the corresponding period last year. Geoff Allum, of Henderson Crosthwaite, is forecasting pre-tax profits virtually unchanged at £65 million although earnings should be a touch firmer at 5.5p, compared with 5.7p, mainly because of different tax treatment. Mr

Allum said Harcros, the builder's merchant subsidiary, has proved a drag on the rest of the operations. Poor weather should see its contribution down from £21.6 million to £12 million for the full year, compared with Mr Allum's forecast for the group as a whole of £120 million at the pre-tax level. The animal feeds business also remains depressed, hindered by the BSE problem.

INCHCAPE: First-half figures today are likely to be flat, with pre-tax profits at £80 million against £83.3 million last time.

Earnings will also dip and shareholders may have to face up to a cut in the dividend from 6p to 4.3p net. Another depressed performance is expected, with any improvement in Britain offset by declines in Hong Kong and Singapore. We may hear news about the proposed disposal of the Testing Services business, which should fetch in at least £300 million.

TARMAC: These figures will show the group continuing to clear up the mess left behind by

its loss-making housebuilding division, which has now been sold to George Wimpey. Tomorrow's figures for the first six months are unlikely to provide much cheer, with pre-tax profits down from £29.1 million to about £15 million. Tough trading in road operations will also depress the final figure. As yet, there are few signs of improvement in roads and analysts will no doubt wish to tackle the group on the thorny questions of cash flow and cost savings. The payout should be pegged at 3p.

BEAZER HOMES: Full-year figures on Thursday will contain the worst of the housebuilding recession. Sales and profits are expected to have been affected. At the pre-tax level, profits are likely to be down from £55.7 million to about £46 million. An increase in the tax charge should produce a bigger decline in earnings, with the figure down from 14p to 11.2p. The group's strong balance sheet, containing no borrowings, should provide scope for an increase in the dividend to 6p.

BARRATT: The group is expected to show a small improvement when it unveils full-year figures on Wednesday, in contrast to Beazer, a rival. Pre-tax profits are set to grow by about £3 million to £50 million, with earnings up from 16.1p to 17.3p. There is also scope for a 5p rise in the dividend to 8p.

IBSTOCK: Shareholders will probably be left to pick over the bones when half-year figures are released on Wednesday and perhaps look forward to an improvement in the current year. Pre-tax profits are set to fall from £13.5 million to just £1 million, with only £12 million pencilled in for the year as a whole. Earnings will also have collapsed from 3.6p to 0.6p, although the dividend should be maintained at 0.8p net.

Certainly 1996 will be a year the group will want to forget, with brick deliveries falling to their lowest level in more than 20 years. This has led to lower prices and lower volume; a deadly combination for any company struggling to make headway.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Focus falls on interest rates

The week begins with the two events that will be most closely watched by the financial markets. Today, Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, meets Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, for their regular monetary meeting on interest rates.

The Bank favours a quarter-point rise in base rates to 6 per cent, but the Chancellor has declined so far to follow this inclination, citing a lack of obvious inflation pressures. On balance, the markets believe Mr Clarke will continue to hold out against higher rates, anxious to avoid political unpopularity in the run-up to the election and to maximise consumer confidence.

Tomorrow is even more crucial for world stocks and bonds with a key meeting of the Federal Open Market Committee. There appears to be a good chance that the Fed will vote in favour of a quarter-point rise in the federal funds rate as an insurance policy against inflationary pressures. Although there have been signs that the economy has been slowing down after a blistering second quarter and most price indicators have remained subdued, there has been some evidence that wages are beginning to pick up.

In Britain, the first key economic statistic is tomorrow's final second-quarter gross domestic product figure, expected to confirm growth at 0.4 per cent. The current account in the second quarter is predicted to have been in deficit to the tune of £1.2 billion. The next UK release comes on Thursday, with July global trade figures expected to show a deficit of about £800 million compared with a shortfall in June of £1.1 billion.

August non-European Union trade is also predicted to have been in deficit by £800 million, a widening from July's shortfall of £506 million. In the US, the key statistic will be final second-quarter GDP on Friday. The previous reading put growth at 4.8 per cent. The markets' focus will then switch to Saturday's Group of Seven meeting in Washington.

JANET BUSH

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Sell BPP; Buy Bemrose; Hold Inchcape. **The Sunday Telegraph:** Buy Horace Clarkson, Hays & Robertson; Hold Blenheim. **Independent on Sunday:** Buy Asda Property, Logica; Avoid Simon Engineering, Cairn Energy. **The Mail on Sunday:** Buy Datrontech, Games Workshop; Sell Pet City.

GILT-EDGED

EMU a worry for Labour, too

The high and widening spread of gilts over bonds reflects three sets of risks – economic, political and European Monetary Union. Gilts have underperformed most other European bond markets since the middle of the year.

This is in spite of ten-year yields falling about 15bp to around 7.4 per cent. Spreads against Germany have widened from about 15bp to 180. A number of other markets have seen spreads against Germany narrow – notably "second wave" EMU candidates such as Sweden, Spain and Italy. Spreads of "first wave" candidates, such as France and Belgium, have been stable.

The economic risks for gilts are clearest – a strengthening consumer-led recovery, problems in containing the PSBR, and growing criticism of the Treasury's monetary stance by the Bank of England, concerned about inflation risks.

The political risks are

shorter-term and the premium to cover them is excessive. There is concern that policy ahead of the election is too lax. There is also uncertainty about the economic policy of a Labour government. However, Labour would pursue a very conservative fiscal and monetary policy at first to establish credibility. This will make the political risk premium shrink.

The most interesting risks relate to EMU. In summer, gilts seemed to offer two benefits to international investors. First, it was clear that most countries, including France and Germany, would struggle to meet the economic criteria for EMU entry. The Germans were emphasising that these criteria were paramount. If there were doubts about the timing and suitability of EMU, the risk premium in the yield of "non-participant" countries such as Denmark and the UK was too high. Second, with the increasing certainty of a change of government in the UK, a number of

investors saw Labour as a likely to go into EMU. Over summer, EMU gained momentum. The new consensus is that too much political capital is invested in EMU to fail. It is increasingly seen as a purely political decision in which the economic criteria will be fudged as in last week's French budget. So EMU aspirants have outperformed the UK.

However, the new higher-risk premium in gilts again give them an attractive defensive character for international bond managers. EMU is largely priced into markets outside the UK and Denmark. The collapse of the ERM and the near-collapse of Maastricht inflation in 1992 show the problems that can hit the EU's grand designs.

That second advantage of holding gilts in the summer was to benefit from a change of government from "anti-EMU" Tories to more "pro-EMU" Labour. This may also have been reassessed. Some analysts think Labour is just as divided as the Conservatives on EMU and that these divisions will come to the fore in government.

There is a more serious threat to Labour. Lengthy EMU legislation could prove a



BY JONATHAN PRYNNE, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR is to launch an attack on the Government's shipping policy tomorrow, accusing ministers of a betrayal of one of the nation's vital industries at a cost of 40,000 jobs since 1979.

In a speech to the National Union of Maritime Aviation and Shipping Transport Officers, Glenda Jackson, left, Labour's newly appointed shipping spokeswoman, will unveil plans to save the fast-

launched British registered fleet from further decline.

The proposed "lifeboat" will include more backing for training British seamen. Tax breaks for British shipping companies have not been ruled out. Ms Jackson will accuse the Government of allowing Britain to sink to 22nd in the league table of world fleets, behind countries such as Malta, Cyprus and St Vincent. Labour has also

launched a campaign in seven key Tory marginals where jobs have been lost in the shipping industry.

"What ministers have done to British merchant shipping is nothing short of piracy," Ms Jackson said.

On the same day John Prescott, the deputy Labour leader and a former ships steward, is due to launch a national helpline for merchant seamen.

MAM offers deal to Kepit shareholders

BY MARTIN BARROW

MERCURY Asset Management (MAM) hopes to take advantage of the uncertainty over the future of Kleinwort European Privatisation Investment Trust (Kepit).

MAM's Mercury European Privatisation Trust (Mepit) is offering Kepit's 60,000 shareholders a facility to exchange their ordinary shares and warrants for Mepit shares through the Mercury Investment Trust Savings Plan without any dealing charges. Only the 0.5 per cent stamp duty will apply.

Under the facility Kepit shares and warrants will be sold in the market and the

proceeds invested in Mepit shares. A deadline of October 14 has been set for applications, subject to change.

Kepit is the target of rival bids from Kleinwort Benson-M&G and Touche Remnant European Growth Trust. Other fund managers have formally expressed their interest. Kepit's board has recommended the Kleinwort offer.

MAM also announced it will be waiving dealing charges (normally 1 per cent with a £60 maximum) until the end of 1996 for all investors wishing to purchase Mepit shares for cash under the savings plan.

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all the issued ordinary share capital of 5p each and all the issued convertible cumulative redeemable preference shares 2000 of £1 each ("5p preference shares of £1 each") of Sterling Publishing Group PLC

(70% preference shares of £1 each)

shares of £1 each

Share swap in ADT merger challenged

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

THE multibillion-dollar merger between ADT, the British security and car auction group, and Republic Industries, a US waste disposal company, is in serious trouble. The proposed deal has run into opposition from Western Resources, a leading shareholder.

Western Resources, a US utility company that owns 24 per cent of ADT, has said it objects to the deal and intends to stop it.

In a filing with the Securities & Exchange Commission it said it found that the all-share nature of the deal made it unacceptable.

Ron Castell, a spokesman for Republic, said: "We've had no conversations with Western yet, but we don't believe they can stop the deal."

But Western, which recently carried out the first hostile takeover of another

utility company in America, is known on Wall Street as an aggressive player.

It could greatly strengthen its hand against Republic if it exercised permission, recently granted by government, to buy up to 50 per cent of ADT common shares.

Even if Western cannot stop the merger outright it may be able to force better terms to be offered. Wall Street analysts are speculating that Western may even want to buy ADT itself.

When the deal was struck in July and Republic's shares were worth around \$29 each, it was valued at about \$3 billion.

Republic's share price has since dipped to about \$20, although recently it recovered to \$28. At this level it would represent a substantial profit for Western, which originally bought its ADT stake — which would be swapped for Republic's shares in the merger — for \$145 a share.

However, Western says that because of the volatility in Republic's share price it does not want to own the shares.

It may press for a cash element in the deal, which would upset the careful financial calculations that make the merger possible.

The deal was struck in July between Michael Ashcroft, chairman of ADT, and Wayne Huizenga, the acquisitive head of Republic, who has developed the company through 50 acquisitions in the past 18 months.

The deal would turn Republic into an international home security, car auction and waste disposal group.

Mr Huizenga began to build up Republic after selling out of Blockbuster Entertainments, the video store group that he built up from small beginnings.

part of a deal completed only a few weeks ago. BDDP bought a 70 per cent stake in Financial Dynamics, the public relations company, in 1990 in a deal which is estimated to have cost the French group more than £12 million.

As part of a complicated earn-out deal it then bought the remaining 30 per cent from eight directors of Financial Dynamics for a price in

excess of £3 million, an equivalent of £375,000 each. BDDP then handed a 49 per cent stake in the company to the employees, with the shares placed in an offshore trust for tax reasons. The majority of the shares would go to the group's partners, which now number 18. The deal includes a clause that obliges the buyer of BDDP's 51 per cent interest to make an offer for the

employees' holdings. As the recent deal values Financial Dynamics at more than £10 million, GGT may have to offer a further £5 million, valuing each of the partners' stakes at nearly £200,000.

Some partners of Financial Dynamics are seeking legal advice, but Mark Bayliss, GGT finance director, said the group would not have to buy the employees' interests.

GGT deal signals bonus for staff

BY JASON NISSE

GCT GROUP, the advertising agency, may be forced to offer as much as £5 million for a half stake in a public relations company that is part owned by BDDP, the French group it plans to buy for £105 million.

The deal could give bonuses of up to £200,000 each to staff who have just been given around £375,000 a head as

part of a deal completed only a few weeks ago. BDDP bought a 70 per cent stake in Financial Dynamics, the public relations company, in 1990 in a deal which is estimated to have cost the French group more than £12 million.

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Pan Am is ready to fly again

PAN AM, one of the great names of aviation until its collapse five years ago, will take to the skies again this week (Martin Barrow writes).

Its first flight will take off from Miami for John F. Kennedy Airport in New York on Thursday and there will also be a flight from New York to Los Angeles. Pan Am plans one daily flight on each route.

The US Department of Transportation gave its clearance for the new Pan Am to begin operations last week.

The new company is a modest outfit offering cheap fares and hoping to reap the benefits of an illustrious name.

The old Pan Am, which flew from 1927 until it collapsed in 1991 in the aftermath of the Lockerbie bombing, is still being liquidated in a federal bankruptcy court.

Charles Cobb, an entrepreneur from Florida, bought the name and logo of Pan American World Airways from the estate for \$1.3 million.



Stuart Wilson, a former conductor, and Terri Jane Larkin, II, try out Music Maker, the new Music Sales CD-Rom game

Scrap over litter bins in prospect

A MEMO is circulating among directors at the Corporation of London offering them the chance to bid for a litter bin. Increased security in the City means the cleaning department has 1,000 bins for disposal. There are four types, some 1.5 metres in height and weighing up to 360kg. Department heads are being encouraged to grab the bins before bidding begins this week. The memo points out the "attractive" cast metal crest attached to the bins, and adds: "Although primarily used as a litter bin, the type 1 free-standing variety also makes an attractive planter."

Pudding paradise

PICKWICK Pudding will be on the menu again from Wednesday when the George & Vulture opens its doors after its £750,000 refurbishment. Fortunately for regulars at Charles Dickens's old watering hole opposite the Royal Exchange, any changes to the building will not be visible. Ray Hall, manager and Spurs supporter, will still be there, serving his much-sought-after steak and kidney pudding complete with an oyster.

DOING the rounds is the one about Elm House, home of the Serious Fraud Office, suggesting the building is to be renamed Maxwell House.



Giles Shepard: sparkling host

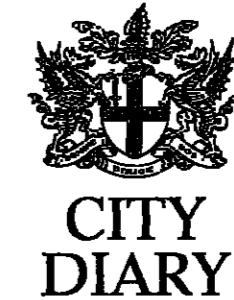
Conversation gem

TONY O'REILLY continues to dine off his most romantic of gestures — parting with £1.75 million to buy his wife the diamond ring that once belonged to Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. Brian Patterson, chief executive at Waterford Wedgwood, another of Mr Bean's many interests, tells me that when he and his wife were dining with O'Reilly in their Castle Martin mansion recently, he was seated next to the diamond. "It was quite a talking point," whispers Patterson. "My wife was allowed to try it on, and she hasn't been the same since."

Walpole warriors

THE Walpole Committee is busy packing its bags today before flying off to the States on its first major trip overseas. The group that was formed

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four years ago to promote British excellence overseas, by companies including Beefeater Gin and the Savoy Group, is sponsoring an evening at the swanky Tavern on the Green in Central Park. To mark the event, a seven-foot model of Concorde and a Range Rover will be parked in the restaurant garden. Walker's shortbread cocktail oatcakes will be served as canapés, and empty whisky barrels are being flown over for a Glenfiddich bar. The Earl of Lichfield will also be there with his new exhibition of photographs "Lichfield's Britain".

GILES SHEPARD, general manager at The Ritz, is playing the loyalty card and extending his hospitality to hungry fellow members of his private club. While White's Club on St James's Street, only minutes away from the Ritz, is gutting its kitchen, Mr Shepard is inviting members to enjoy a menu created especially for them at the Ritz — and at a discount price. Anyone would think he was trying to attract new business.

Bar know-how

RICHARD SHERWOOD, owner of Ashwick House Hotel in Exmoor, overlooking the wooded Barle Valley, has come up with a novel scheme for keeping kleptomaniac guests at bay. Sherwood tells me that he has put up notices above the minibars in all his Edwardian rooms stating: "We have learnt that you need a razor blade to cut the seal around a mini vodka bottle. You can then drink the contents and fill it up with water. For whisky and rum it is a little more difficult, but if you order early morning tea, you can fill the bottles with unmilked tea."

Impeccable sauce

THE Guild of Aviation Artists' latest quarterly newsletter reports that visitors to its recent exhibition were asked to note how they had heard of the event. The Times was high on the list, and an advertisement in another national newspaper was noted by one visitor. The same number, in fact, as had received the information from another veritable source — "slept with the artist".

MORAG PRESTON

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